



EERIE

#46

MARCH, 1973

76 ILLUSTRATED PAGES OF TERROR AND SUSPENSE

# EERIE

PDC

563206

A WARREN MAGAZINE 75¢



THE  
BLOODLUST  
OF DRACULA  
RISES AGAIN  
Page 6

Scruton





HERE'S A  
JUICY MORSEL!  
JUST THE KIND  
OF THING TO  
WHET MY  
APPETITE!

# Portrait of Dracula

FANS OF THE GHOULISH WHO HAPPEN TO BE TRAVELING THROUGH **INNSBRUCK, AUSTRIA**, ARE ADVISED TO STOP IN AT AN ANCIENT, WELL-PRESERVED FORTRESS OUTSIDE THAT CITY--THE **CASTLE AMBRAS**. FOR THERE THEY WILL FIND THE ONLY KNOWN OIL PORTRAIT OF THE MOST INFAMOUS FIEND IN MEDIEVAL HISTORY, "VLAD THE IMPALER," ALIAS **DRACULA**!

"DRACULA'S" PORTRAIT HANGS TODAY IN THE CASTLE'S "CHAMBER OF HORRORS" COLLECTED IN 1591 BY A TYROLEAN PRINCE. IN IT, VLAD THE IMPALER IS DEPICTED AS HAVING A HAWK-LIKE NOSE AND FIERCE BLACK MUSTACHE--AND WEARING A JEWELLED TURBAN!

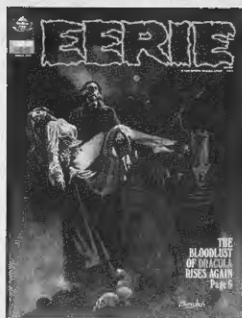


NEXT TO "DRACULA'S" PORTRAIT HANGS ONE OF THE "**WOLFMAN OF THE URALS**," A RUSSIAN NOBLEMAN WHO HAD ODD, WOLF-LIKE EARS AND A FACE COVERED WITH HAIR--MUCH LIKE THE FAMOUS "WOLFMAN" CHARACTER IN TODAY'S HORROR MOVIES!



THE PAINTING OF **VLAD THE IMPALER**, ALIAS "DRACULA," WAS ADDED TO THE CASTLE'S "CHAMBER OF HORRORS" NOT BECAUSE HE WAS THOUGHT TO BE A "VAMPIRE," BUT BECAUSE OF THE MONSTROUS CRIMES HE COMMITTED DURING HIS REIGN IN THE 15TH CENTURY. AMONG THESE WAS THE TIME LEGEND SAYS HE ORDERED "THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN EVER SEEN" **TORN TO PIECES** FOR HIS AMUSEMENT!





OUR COVER  
The mind-boggling cover by the incredible  
San Julian is based on the new terror-  
series, Dracula, that begins this issue.

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EERIE NO. 46, PUBLISHED NINE TIMES A  
YEAR BY WARREN PUBLISHING CO. PRICE  
75¢ PER COPY. SUBSCRIPTION: 9 ISSUES  
(INCLUDING SPECIAL SUMMER ISSUE AND  
SPECIAL CHRISTMAS ISSUE) FOR \$9.00 IN  
THE U.S. CANADA AND ELSEWHERE \$11.00.  
EDITORIAL & BUSINESS OFFICES AT 145  
EAST 32ND STREET, N.Y. 10016. SECOND  
CLASS MAIL PRIVILEGE PENDING AT NEW  
YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING  
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PRINTED IN U.S.A.

# EERIE

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**DRACULA**, the first in a new series on everybody's favorite vampire, written and drawn especially for the readers of EERIE. The dank waters of San Francisco Bay provide the backdrop for the Count's evil doings.

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**THINGS IN THE DARK** Three young boys enter a dark mysterious cemetery at night... but only two return... for somewhere deep within the winding catacombs beneath the cemetery's ground, lies death.

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**THE GIANT** Dax The Warrior battles for the life of a girl against a cyclops and a master monster maker in a thrill designed to make you shake in your shoes. A terrifying trip into the unknown worlds of Swords and Sorcery!

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## "Bright Eyes was great! Corben is great!"

I just received the latest EERIE in the mail, #42. The stories and art were really good. It is hard to say which is the best because they were all good. My favorite was "Voodoo Drum." The art was superb. The next best is "The Mummy Stalks." It was an unusual story to say the least. A Lycanthropic Mummy! Weird! But I certainly did like it, and I would like to see more. Let me make a suggestion. You should make posters out of some of your better magazine covers. Keep up the good work, and you may get even better than that old fang-face, Uncle Creepy. He's Yeechh!



**BOB WOODBURN**  
Mesa, Ariz.

Cuz says he already has some posters of his better covers...in fact, he has two posters whereas Wart-nose CREEPY doesn't even have one. You can find the ad for our cover posters (also one for VAMPIRELLA) in the back of this mag.

Really enjoyed "Bright Eyes" in your current EERIE. Let's have some more Zombie stories. "Someday" was great science fiction. But "Hunt" was utterly ridiculous, while "Musical Chairs" was a fantastic story. "Let The Evil One Sleep" was the worst story in the whole book. Tell me one thing: Is Dax a sex maniac? I just wanted to know because he acts like one.



**ALBERT LORIE**  
Miami, Fla.

We tried to get to Dax to ask him, but there are always too many girls hanging around his hut to get near him. By the way, why did you want to know?

EERIE #43 was good. "Bright Eyes" was the best. Second was "Let The Evil One Sleep." How about having Dax in his own mag? The third best story was "Someday." Fourth was "Musical Chairs" then came "Hunt" and "Showdown." EERIE'S Monster Gallery was good this time around, and the cover was good but it was hard to believe it was done by the same artist who did VAMPIRELLA #20's cover which I liked much better. Still he is good, so keep Luis Dominguez.

**LISA LONGOBARDI**  
Hamden, Conn.

I was planning to write for a long time to tell you how Dax The Warrior is so much worse than the rest of your stories, but, alas, that is no longer the case. ALL your stories have now dropped to the level of Dax, and that is pretty low. To start off with, your writers haven't come up with anything new. "Crazy Mazie," "Everlasting Mortality," "Hands of the Discarnate," and the rest are all plots which are written to scare a two year old.

I've been reading EERIE ever since its creation, and I've seen you come up with some real literary masterpieces. Why don't you fire all your writers and hire a new bunch of scribblers?

Now, for the artwork. Even an old complainer like me must admit you've got some real good artists.



**DAVID EPSTEIN**  
Monticello, N.Y.

Dave, we disagree with your opinion of our current writers, but rest assured we do have some new writers working on some eerifiers for you.

EERIE #42 wasn't exactly spooktacular, however I did like "Voodoo Drum." Some of the other stories were poor. The skeleton pictured at the end of "Death Rider" looked like he was riding an invisible horse. "Blood Fruit" started out right but got goofed up somewhere down the line.

**DENNIS WELCH**  
Vaiden, Ms.

Your current issue was only fair. "Bright Eyes" was a good, decent story with powerful writing and superlative artwork. "Showdown" was a poor excuse of a sequel to the now classic "Dark Rider." "Let The Evil One Sleep," the fourth installment in an apparently endless (thank God) series of Dax Sword and Sorcery stories, (making all others look cheaper than the one before), was the handsomest of the lot. Although the others were classics of the genre, "Sleep" beats them hands down. Maroto's treatment of the biblical story of Adam and Eve is far more acceptable than the other one by Margopolous.



**TOM SZEBERENY**  
Montreal, Canada

Dax seems to get both ends of you reader's thinking. Many of you hate the series, but just as many think it's the best thing ever. However we believe that the future Dax stories should have everyone praising our favorite warrior.

I'm a very new reader to your great magazine, and I just wanted to tell you what I thought of EERIE #44. The top stories were "Everlasting Mortality," "Lake of Gold" and "The Parade." "Crazy Mazie" and "Tiller of the Soil" weren't so great.

I must admit I've read Wormy's mag before yours. Please forgive me, Oh Cuz. Rest assured I'm in your camp, now.

**RICK WORLAND**  
Montgomery City, Mo.

"Crazy Mazie" in EERIE #44 was just great. The duo of Cochran/Sutton even excelled their previous work with "The Disenfranchised."

With the exception of "Tiller of the Soil" the rest of the stories were pretty bad, though. Since Sword And Sorcery fans have their own series, why not have a science fiction one? I can see it now...there's this huge starship floating out in space, and one of the crew members has pointed ears...

**RICHARD EYBERGER**  
Mingo, Jct. Ohio

EERIE #43 was super. I liked all the stories. I especially liked "Let The Evil One Sleep." "Musical Chairs" was neat. "Showdown" was great. "Someday" was fang-tastic. "The Hunt" was cool. I really loved the art in "Bright Eyes." But the story wasn't too good this time.

**CORKEY HUCKS**  
Sumter, S.C.

You probably won't print this letter, but if you do, here is what I have to say about Dax The Warrior. Dax is pure garbage. I agree with Tony Court who says if we wanted romance we would buy romance comics. EERIE is a horror magazine, so try to get more horror and gore. I also wish you wouldn't have so much science fiction in EERIE. I really liked "Bright Eyes" and "Musical Chairs" in issue #43. You should have more stories like these.

**TIM WILSON**  
Madison, N. Cal.

Congratulations! EERIE #43 was a great issue. Best story was "Bright Eyes." It was fantastic. "Friedhelm The Magnificent" was the first story I had ever seen illustrated by Corben and I didn't like his art then. But now I think it has really improved. Why don't you drop the "Dax" series. It is really stupid.

**GLEN NETHERCUT**  
Stockton, Calif.



A scene from the horrifying tale "Bright Eyes," as drawn by Richard Corben, and written by Doug Moench. Some called this a classic!

## "Dax the warrior is lousy!"

The appearance of any art by Richard Corben always makes for at least one good story, and this is exactly what happened with #43. Corben's shown three techniques now, and only one bad one, for CREEPY #41. I believe what he did for "Bright Eyes" is called ink and wash. It was very impressive, and thank you for printing it. I also enjoyed the story very much.

The rest of the issue, however, was very poor. Starting with Dominguez's cover. Since that one he did for FAMOUS MONSTER'S #93, they've all gotten worse. The stories by Margopolous were simply terrible. The plot for "Someday" with the origin of the Earth is so hackneyed. Hardly a year goes by without someone coming up with another explanation. "The Hunt" suffered from the same problem. Obviously he hasn't read many comics or watched much Television lately because the theme has been used to the hilt. You have published some fine science fiction tales, notably "This Burden, This Responsibility" from CREEPY #47, so I'm for one SF story per issue. Why not do adaptations as you did before. Your new artist, Suso, is very good, by the way. Here's hoping the next issue improves.

**GARY KIMBER**  
Ont., Canada

Best stories in EERIE #43 were "Someday" and "Musical Chairs." I loved "Bright Eyes" however. Corben's artwork is great. Dax the Warrior stinks, get rid of him. Please get Reed Crandall to do some stories for you, and leave Science Fiction out of EERIE. This is a horror book, and don't forget it.

**RON GILLEN**  
Decatur, Ill.

EERIE #43 was great because of all the following reasons: #1: "Someday" was good because for all we know it could have happened. #2: "Musical Chairs" and "Bright Eyes" were good because of their shock endings. #3: "The Hunt" and "Let The Evil One Sleep" were good because I like Sword and Sorcery stories.

**ED PAHLE**  
Milw., Wisc.

I just bought EERIE #43. I think it's the worst issue I have ever read. "Musical Chairs" was fair. The rest was poor. Shape up or ship out, Cuz. Work at it!

**SEAN SULLIVAN**  
No Address Given

EERIE #42 was tops. "Life Species" was a real joke, but great! I think you need more stories about Vampires. I just started reading EERIE with #39 and I'll tell you the truth: I never touched a single copy of CREEPY! And I don't plan to. My blood may turn cold. Dax is great, but it needs more gore. And get rid of some of those nudes.

EERIE #43 was great, too. I wouldn't mind Sci-Fi if it had more blood and guts in it. "Bright Eyes" was the greatest Zombie story ever. Dax was the best since #39. Monster Gallery is great. You've got to keep up the good work.

**MATT GROSS**  
Baltimore, Md.



Aw, you can pick up a copy of CREEPY you'd like. It's not as good as MY magazine, but it's still heads over tails better than those others you sometimes find littering the newsstands. Come to think of it, even VAMPIRELLA is better than those trashy things... In fact, anything is better!!!!

EERIE #42 was definitely a mixed bag of tricks. Jerry Grandenetti's graphics on "Someday" left me cold. Same goes for "Musical Chairs" and "The Hunt." I have seen these tired stories till my tolerance for ennui is at its breaking point. However, "Showdown" and "Let The Evil One Sleep" greatly impressed me both in story and art. "Showdown" hardly qualifies as a "Horror" story in the traditional sense. It has no ridiculous monsters or senseless gore to give it meaning, but there is a deeper, more intimate horror in its final panels than all those previously mentioned. Esteban Maroto is magnificent, and his Dax stories get better and better every issue. I wonder if most readers truly appreciate his subtlety. I would love to see Esteban Maroto do a cover for you. What's the possibilities of him doing one?

**JIM FAULKENBERG**  
Burlington, Wisc.

EERIE #43 was great! All the stories were good, especially the two Sci-Fi thrillers. The only thing I really disliked in the whole issue was the letter from Richard Clark. In it he states that super-heroes belong in "stupid Kiddie Comics" and not in EERIE. Well, I agree that EERIE may not be the place for Super-heroes, but Super-heroes are not kiddie stuff.

**RICK MORGAN**  
Pooltown, N.C.



Paul Neary's incredible renderings on "The Hunt," written by demonic Rich Margopolous. Some didn't like the story, but almost everyone thought the art was great.

EERIE, may I say you have to sink pretty low to print such garbage as was in #44. The only good thing in the book was "Tiller Of The Soil." Even DAX was undergrade this time. Doug Moench sure did dictate issue #44, and may I say disgustingly (no offense, but he is rotten).

**WAYNE BLEDSOE**  
Knoxville, Tenn.

You stated in EERIE #44 that you wanted comments or complaints on Randy Palmer's letter. Well, I am commenting. I agree that the 50th Anniversary Issue should, and better be good. I suggest you reprint either the best story ever in EERIE, or at least the first story to have ever appeared in EERIE. Also, it should have a Frazetta cover. Keep up the writer's and artist's profiles. They are really good.

And last but not least, I think you should print the cover of the next issue in your preview page.

**JEFF KILIAN**  
Wichita, Kansas



We'd like to print our covers, if it were possible, but sometimes we don't have the painting in the office when the previous issue goes out.

Please forgive me. For about two years I've read CREEPY, and for one year I've read VAMPIRELLA, but I've never read an EERIE. I once even called it ugly. I recently bought EERIE #44. So, please forgive me, Cuz. I think EERIE, CREEPY & VAMPIRELLA are all great horror magazines. Here's what I thought of issue #44: The cover was okay, I like Dominguez's art. Monster Gallery was a masterpiece. "Crazy Mazie" was fantastic. I didn't think much of "Everlasting Mortality." "The Thrill Of The Hunt" wasn't much of a thrill. "Hand Of The Discarnate" was a bit better. "Mervin's Dead Ringer" was one of (if not the) best stories I've read this month. "Tiller Of The Soil" was a tiler... er... thriller. "The Parade" was another great story. "Lake of Gold" was great. I don't like Maroto's "Tomb Of The Gods" in VAMPIRELLA.

**ROBERT SOMMERKAMP**  
St. Petersburg, Fla.

EERIE #43 was the best EERIE I've ever read. Best stories were "Bright Eyes." Someday was a good story, but not half as good as the rest.

**STEVE HALL**  
New London, Conn.

## Write on, Brothers!

Your will is my will. You are to do as I command: put pencil to paper and write me! Address mail to:

**DEAR COUSIN EERIE**  
c/o Warren Publishing  
145 East 32nd Street  
New York, N.Y. 10016



**PROLOGUE** LEGENDS, LIKE MEN, LINGER FOR A TIME, THEN THEY ARE FORGOTTEN. NO LEGEND IS IMMORTAL, YET THERE IS ONE LEGEND WHICH HAS CONTINUED TO PLAGUE MANKIND THROUGH THE AGES. TALES ARE WHISPERED OF UNSPEAKABLE BLOODLUST, OF HUMAN PERVERSIONS OF TWISTED TORMENTED SOULS: OF THE UNDEAD! TALES WHICH STEM FROM THE **DRACULA** LEGEND.

**DRACULA** IMMORTAL KING OF VAMPIRES, WHO HAS PREYED ON HUMAN VICTIMS SINCE TIME UNRECORDED, SEEKING THEIR VERY LIFE BLOOD SO THAT HE MAY FEED!

YET THIS EVIL INCARNATION IS NOT THE SAME FIGURE TODAY THAT LEGEND PANTS HIM! SINCE MEETING **VAMPIRELLA**, THE SEDUCTIVE VAMPIRESS FROM THE STARS, AND THE **CONJURESS**, IMMORTAL GODDESS OF GOOD, **DRACULA** HAS SOUGHT TO CHANGE... TO BECOME A NORMAL HUMAN, INSTEAD OF A STALKING BEAST.

HELP ME, CONJURESS I DON'T WANT TO BE EVIL!

DESPITE HIS STRONGEST WISHES, THE INSANE LONGING FOR HUMAN BLOOD CONTINUES TO PLAGUE **DRACULA**: EACH VICTIM WEIGHS HEAVILY ON HIS CONSCIENCE! THE ONCE ALL POWERFUL ALL EVIL **DRACULA** IS NO MORE! IN HIS PLACE IS A SMALL, SELF-PITYING CHARACTER WITH THE SAME LONGING... AND A SIMILAR TASTE FOR FRESH BLOOD!

AND THE CONJURESS, BEAUTIFUL AND UNEARTHLY, SHARES IN HIS PITY! FOR EACH TIME SHE FAILS IN CONVERTING **DRACULA**, ANOTHER VICTIM FALLS TO THE VAMPIRE'S VENOMOUS FANGS!

...ATTRACTED TO THE POINT WHERE SHE HAS ALL BUT FORSAKEN THE LOVE OF HE WHO CAME FIRST...

...ADAM VAN HELSING

SHARING **DRACULA'S** BLOODLUST CURSE, **VAMPIRELLA** FINDS HERSELF STRANGELY ATTRACTED TO THE CONSCIENCE STRICKEN VAMPIRE...

TOGETHER ON AN ALIEN DESERT WORLD,  
DRACULA, VAMPIRELLA AND THE VAN  
HELINGS, DYING OF THIRST, FINALLY  
CONFRONT ONE ANOTHER...

BEFORE THE VAMPIRE CAN PLUNGE  
HIS FANGS INTO HIS VICTIM...  
THE CONJURESS APPEARS!

VAMPIRELLA, CAN YOU  
FEEL **LOVE** FOR A  
BEING SUCH AS THIS?

THERE IS NO **NEED**  
TO THIRST WHEN  
NOURISHMENT IS  
EVERYWHERE!

SO **DRACULA**  
ONCE AGAIN  
YOU HAVE  
FAILED TO  
CURB YOUR  
**LUSTS!**

IT COULD  
**NEVER**  
HAVE BEEN  
LOVE!

**DRACULA,**  
**NO!!**

SO BE IT, THEN, VAMPIRELLA!  
YOU AND THE VAN HELINGS  
SHALL RETURN TO YOUR HOME...

... **DRACULA** WILL BE  
TAKEN TO A PLACE  
WHERE HE CAN NEVER  
AGAIN PLAGUE YOU!

FATHER...  
W...WE'RE  
ON OUR  
WAY  
**HOME!**

I HEARD, ADAM  
AND I AM AS HAPPY  
AS YOU! BUT EVEN  
A BLIND MAN CAN  
SENSE THE PITY  
**VAMPIRELLA** FEELS  
FOR DRACULA!

NO, **NOT PITY.**  
DR. VAN HELSING!  
**SORROW...** THAT  
DRACULA WILL  
NEVER BE  
NORMAL! I  
ALONE KNOW  
WHAT **HELL**  
HE MUST FEEL!

WE...WE'RE  
**FADING**  
OUT!

WE'RE GOING  
**HOME**  
PENDRAGON!

AND NOW  
YOU  
DRACULA...

TO A PLACE  
AS EVIL AS  
BEFITS A  
CREATURE  
SUCH AS  
YOU!

WHERE  
ARE YOU  
TAKING ME?

THIS IS WHAT HAS  
COME TO PASS: WITH  
BUT A MERE GESTURE,  
DRACULA IS LIFTED  
TO A NEW LIFE...



FOG ROLLS SLOWLY  
ON TO THE SLOPING  
HILLS GENTLY CREEP-  
ING FROM THE BRIGHT  
MOON LIT SEA THIS  
NIGHT...

WELCOME  
TO YOUR  
**HOME**,  
DRACULA...

...FOG THAT IS ALMOST AS UNNOTICED AS TWO INVISIBLE  
FIGURES, DESCENDING UPON A YOUNG BUT RUTHLESS  
CITY: A CITY OF CUT THROATS, THIEVES AND WOMEN OF  
THE NIGHT... A CITY BEFITTINGLY AS EVIL AS THE DREADED...

# Dracula

...WELCOME TO THE **BARBARY**  
COAST OF THE EARLY 1900'S...

...AMERICA'S MELTING POT FOR  
TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY  
PIRATRY, SATANISM, WITCH-  
CRAFT AND WHITE SLAVERY!

HERE YOU MUST FEND  
FOR YOURSELF AMONG  
BEINGS WHO ARE EVERY  
BIT AS EVIL AS  
YOURSELF!

IF PUTTING YOU  
IN A DECENT  
SETTING CANNOT  
CURB YOUR  
**BLOODLUST**,  
PERHAPS A  
SETTING SUCH  
AS **THIS** WILL!

FAREWELL,  
**DRACULA**.  
I LEAVE  
YOU TO  
YOUR OWN  
DESIGNS!

THE BARBARY  
COAST! I  
HAVE HEARD  
OF THIS  
PLACE!





EVEN AS FAR AS MY OWN HOMELAND I HAVE HEARD TALES OF THE SAVAGERY WHICH ABOUNDS HERE!

QUIET YE MOUSE! AN STAY OUT OF SIGHT, HE'S COMIN' THIS WAY!

LOOKY 'ERE, MATEY! 'EES A **BIG** ONE! THE CAPT'N'LL BE PLEASED IF WE CAN **'RECRUIT'** HIM FOR THE VOYAGE!

WE'LL **NAIL** HIM AS HE PASSES!



BEHIND ME!

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT ONE MORE HAND SIGNING ABOARD FOR **TOMORROW'S** EUROPEAN CRUISE!



WHAT MANNER OF **JACKELS** HAVE WE HERE, WHO SNEAK UPON THE **BACK** OF THEIR VICTIM... UNDER COVER OF **DARKNESS** NO LESS!

'FACE YOUR **'HELPLESS'** VICTIM, JACKELS!

AND KNOW THE MEANING OF **FEAR!**

L...LORD WHAT MANNER OF **CREATURE** IS THIS?

'EES **SATAN** HIMSELF!!



NO, I AM NOT **SATAN** BUT BY THE TIME I AM **FINISHED** YOU WILL HAVE WISHED I **WAS** SATAN... THE LESSER OF TWO EVILS!



**LONG** HAS IT BEEN SINCE I HAVE FED... TASTED THE WARMTH OF SWEET **CRIMSON!!**



W...WHAT 'AVE YE DONE TO ME MATEY?

'EE WAS LIKE A BROTHER TO ME!

...A...AND WHAT ARE YE GOIN' TA DO TO ME?

**NO! NO!!**



THEY ARE NOT DEAD! MERELY A LITTLE **DRAINED!**

EVEN NOW THEY BEGIN TO **STIR!**

BUT I MUST TURN MY ATTENTION TO MORE **IMMEDIATE** MATTERS!

THEY SPOKE OF A **SHIP** SAILING FOR **EUROPEAN** WATERS ON THE MORROW!



WITH A LITTLE PERSUASION PERHAPS I CAN CONVINCE THEM TO TAKE ME TO THAT SHIP!

[WITH BUT A SINGLE SWEEPING GESTURE OF HIS HAND, THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS INTRODUCES THE TWO SEAMEN TO THE NUMBNESS OF A DEEP HYPNOTIC TRANCE.]



THE BARBARY COAST IS NO PLACE FOR ONE SUCH AS I!!



I YEARN TO RETURN TO MY EUROPEAN HOMELAND!

...TO RETURN TO THE WARMTH OF MY OWN CASTLE

CASTLE DRACULA!!



AND THESE SAILORS HAVE UNWITTINGLY PROVIDED ME WITH A MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION!

[AND AS THE VAMPIRE KING FOLLOWS TWO HALF CONSCIOUS TARS THROUGH FOGGY SAN FRANCISCO MISTS, THERE ARE OTHERS WHO HAVE THEIR OWN PLANS FOR THE EVENING HOURS...]

I HAD FORGOTTEN WHAT A PLEASURE IT IS TO BE HOLDING A FULL BOTTLE IN ONE HAND, AND A TREASURE SUCH AS YOURSELF IN THE OTHER!

IT'S BEEN MUCH TOO LONG SINCE I'VE HAD ME A REAL WOMAN!

WE'LL, YOU'LL BE HAVIN' ONE **THIS** NIGHT, BIG BEN... IF YOUR MONEY'S THE COLOR YOU SAY IT IS!

AH, JOSEPHINE! I HAVE BEEN AT SEA FAR TOO LONG!





AH, JOSEPHINE, WHY ARE YA LEADIN' ME DIZZY HEAD DOWN SUCH A DARK ALLEY?

I SEEM TO REMEMBER YA SAYIN' BACK IN THE PUB, ABOUT YA BEING AFRAID OF **DARK PLACES!**

A SWEET YOUNG GIRL OF YOUR PROFESSION WOULDN'T BE MEANIN' TO HIJACK AN OLD TAR FOR HIS MONEY NOW, WOULD YA?

WHY, BIG BEN! YOU DO ME AN INJUSTICE! A SWEET YOUNG THING OF MY PROFESSION HAS OTHER WAYS TO GET AN OLD TAR'S MONEY... AS YOU WELL KNOW!

YA GOT WHAT YA WAS **DESERVIN'!** BIG BEN!



AH, JOSEPHINE, YA FRISKY WENCH, FOR CERTAIN YA KNOW HOW TO MAKE AN OLD MAN'S BLOOD **BURN** WITH DESIRE!

NOW LET ME **HAVE** WHAT I CAME HERE TO **GET!**



**THUD**

**URK!!**



I **NAILED** IM GOOD, DIDN'T I, GIRL!

THAT YA **DID** MIZ' ELIZABETH!

FOR A BLIND, FEEBLE OLD **WITCH** WOMAN YA GOT IM **DEAD CENTER!**

AND WHAT A **MESS** YOU MADE OUT OF HIM TOO!





I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT YOU WANT  
THIS BASHED  
AND BLOODY  
CORPSE FOR  
OLD WOMAN...

BUT AS LONG  
AS YOU KEEP PAYIN'  
ME AS WELL AS  
YOU DO, I'LL LURE  
AS MANY MEN  
AS YOU SAY,  
RIGHT TO  
YOU!



YOU WANT TO  
KNOW *WHY* I  
WANT THIS BODY,  
EH, GIRL?

WELL I'LL  
TELL YE...

WE *ALL* HAVE OUR  
LITTLE *FEARS*.  
ME PRETTY!

YOU HAVE A  
DEATHLY FEAR OF  
THE *DARK*!

AND ME...



...I FEAR BUT  
ONE THING...

**DEATH!!**

BUT I WILL *NEVER*  
DIE! I HAVE D.S.  
COVERED A *SPELL*  
WHICH WILL ALLOW  
ME TO *CONQUOR*  
DEATH!

TO LIVE *FOREVER*,  
ALL I NEED DO S CUT  
A WARM *HEART* FROM  
THE BODY OF A  
FRESH CORPSE...



...AND EAT  
IT *RAW*!!

MEANWHILE, AT  
THE FOOT OF  
SAN FRANCISCO'S  
SLOPING HILLS,  
A WEATHER-  
BEATEN VESSEL  
ROCKS MONOTON-  
OUSLY ON  
GENTLE BAY  
WAVES...



...RESTING AT THE  
SIDE OF ROTTING DOCK  
TIMBERS, IN ANTICIPATION  
OF THE COMING VOYAGE.

AND IN AN OBSCURE HOLD OF THE VESSEL, A  
SILENT FIGURE SITS DEEP IN THOUGHT, AS TWO  
ZOMBIELIKE SAILORS STAND AT HIS SIDE, DEEP  
IN A HYPNOTIC STATE!

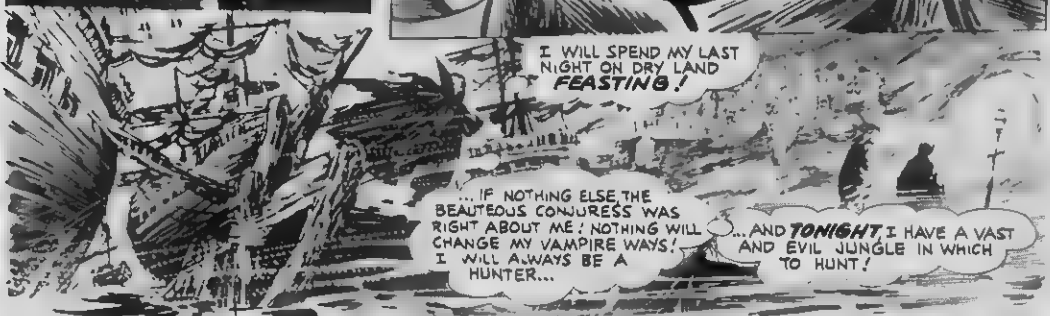


I MUST MAKE PREPARATIONS  
FOR THIS LONG JOURNEY AHEAD!

I CAN STOWAWAY IN  
THIS FORGOTTEN PORTION  
OF THE SHIP!

BUT I WILL  
NEED A  
PLACE TO  
*REST* DURING  
DAYLIGHT  
HOURS!

...I WILL NEED  
A *COFFIN*!





I KNOW JUST THE PLACE FOR A QUIET LITTLE 'PARTY'!

THAT IS, IF YOU'VE NO QUALMS ABOUT SPENDING A FEW GREENBACKS FOR A COZY RETREAT!



IT'S A COMFY LITTLE SHACK JUST AT THE OTHER END OF THIS ALLEY!



YOU GO IN FIRST! IT'S JUST A WEE BIT DARK IN THERE... AND ME AND DARK PLACES JUST DON'T GO TOGETHER!

DRACULA OPENS THE CREEKING DOOR ENTERING! HIS SENSES WARNING OF DANGER WITHIN THE DARK ENCLOSURE!



SUDDENLY, THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS WHIRLS ABOUT, REEDLESS OF THE DANGER HIS SENSES TELL HIM IS SO NEAR!

WITH FANGS BARRED, HE IS QUICKLY UPON THE GIRL... WITH BUT ONE THOUGHT IN HIS MIND...

HEY, NOT SO PUSHY, FELLA! YALL GET WHAT YOU CAME HERE FOR!

EH? W-WHAT ARE YA DOIN'?

NO!

NO!!

AND AS BLOODLUSTING FANGS NEAR A VELVETY WHITE NECK, THE DARK ROOM GLOWS WITH LIGHT... AND A FIGURE APPEARS!

EEEEEE



...THE CONJURESS!

NOT AGAIN DRACULA!

I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO TAKE ANOTHER LIFE IN YOUR INSANE BLOODLUST!

FROM THE SOUND OF THAT VOICE, I OUGHT TO STRIKE RIGHT...



...HERE BLAP

CONJURESS!!



**A** HASTY BLOW MEANT FOR ANOTHER VICTIM, STRUCK **BLINDLY**...

I...I TRIED DRACULA! I TRIED TO CHANGE YOU!

BUT THERE IS **NOTHING** THAT CAN ALTER YOU FROM THE **TOTALLY EVIL** BEING YOU ARE DESTINED TO BE!

...AND A **GODDESS** LIES WITH HER LIFE **EBBING SLOWLY** AWAY...

CONJURESS I...I...

THERE IS NO TIME FOR **WORDS** DRACULA...

Y-YOU MUST **FLEE!**

I DO NOT BLAME YOU FOR WHAT HAS HAPPENED! YET A **GODDESS** CANNOT BE DESTROYED WITHOUT A **TERRIBLE** VENGEANCE BEING WREAKED BY THE... **HEAVENS.**

**AND AS THE CONJURESS SLIPS INTO THE PEACEFULNESS OF ETERNAL SLEEP, DRACULA FEELS A PAIN HE HAS NEVER BEFORE KNOWN...SORROW!**

**G**ENTLY LOWERING THE LIMP BODY TO THE FLOOR, **DRACULA** SPINS TO FACE THE CONJURESS' **BLIND** BEWILDERED **KILLER**...

**YOU!**

...THE **SORROW** WITH HIM, NOW A **BITTER RAGE!**

**MURDERESS!**

YOU HAVE SLAIN THE ONLY **TOTALLY GOOD** BEING I HAVE EVER KNOWN!

WHATEVER YOUR REASON, BE IT INTENTIONAL OR A **BLOW** MEANT FOR ME...

YOU MUST **PAY!!**

WHOEVER YOU ARE... **WHAT-EVER** YOU ARE...

**STAY BACK!**

**CREAK-R-R-RU**

...OR YE'LL BE GETTIN' THE **SAME** AS YOUR WOMAN FRIEND

**AS** THE VAMPIRE AND WITCH WOMAN FACE EACH OTHER, THE **GROUND RUMBLES**, THE **EARTH SHAKES**...

IT IS THE **RETRIBUTION** THE **GODDESS** SPOKE OF!


**AND** THE **HEAVENS** SEEM TO **FALL INWARD!**

**FOOL!**

...IT IS AN **EARTH-QUAKE!!**

**EARTHQUAKE** OR THE **HEAVENS** VENGEANCE, IT MATTERS NOT!

WE'VE GOT TO GET **OUT** OF **HERE!!**



OUTSIDE, BUILDINGS SEEM TO DANCE THEN CRUMBLE,  
INTO RUBBLE IN A MAD, CHAOTIC BALLET!

IT'S THE END  
OF THE WORLD!

IF NOT THE WORLD,  
AT LEAST **THIS**  
PORTION OF IT,  
WITCH

MUST REACH  
THE SHIP...

AND HOPE THAT  
IT IS **UNTOUCHED**  
BY THIS HOLLOCAST!

SCREAMS OF THE DYING  
ARE DROWNED BY THE  
THUNDEROUS ROAR OF  
A CITY IN ITS DEATH THROES...  
**SAN FRANCISCO!**

DARK,  
MORNING SKY  
GLOWS BRIGHTLY  
AS FLAMES LEAP  
AND CRACKLE  
FROM THE  
MASSIVE  
RUINS!

AND ON THE  
BAY, ALL  
HANDS SCRAMBLE  
WORKING IN  
UNISON TO PUT  
A VESSEL TO  
SAIL BEFORE THE  
CRUMBLING CITY  
AND ITS MASSIVE  
FLAMES!

STONED-AWAY IN THE INTERIOR OF THE  
SHIP, THE DEATH CRIES OF A CITY JUST  
OUTSIDE SEEMS **ANOTHER WORLD AWAY!**

DIDN'T GET  
HERE A  
MOMENT  
**TOO SOON...**

THE SHIPS  
PUTTING  
**TO SEA!**

YE SAVED  
OUR LIVES!  
**WHY?**  
YOU WERE  
READY TO  
**KILL**  
ME BACK  
THERE!

I HAVE EVERY  
INTENTION  
OF **ENDING**  
YOUR WORTHLESS  
LIFE, WITCH!

... AND THAT  
OF THIS  
LOWLY  
WENCH  
HERE!



**A** SHRILL SCREAM ABOARD A LONE SAILING VESSEL IS DROWNED OUT BY THE ROAR OF ANGRY WAVES, CRASHING UPON THE RUBBLE STREWN SHORES OF AN EVIL BARBARY COAST PAYED ITS DEBT.



#### EPILOGUE:

ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 18TH, 1906, AT 5:15 AM, THE CITY OF **SAN FRANCISCO** WAS SHAKEN BY THE WORST **EARTHQUAKE** TO EVER HIT A MAJOR AMERICAN CITY. ONE LONE SHIP ESCAPED DEVASTATION AT THE DOCKS, HAVING SET SAIL JUST AS THE EARTHQUAKE BEGAN. HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF SAN FRANCISCANS LOST THEIR HOMES... THOUSANDS MORE HAD LOST LOVED ONES...

# AND AN IMMORTAL DIED!



ASK ANYBODY IN THIS PART OF THE STATE AND THEY'LL TELL YOU THAT THE CONKLIN CEMETERY IS **HAUNTED**. IT'S A FACT THAT FOLKS WENT IN THERE AND WERE NEVER SEEN AGAIN. TO THIS DAY, NOT EVEN THE POLICE KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM.

AS I RECOLLECT, THE LATEST MYSTERY TOOK PLACE A FEW NIGHTS AGO, WHEN THREE BOYS LEFT THEIR HOMES AROUND MIDNIGHT AND CAME OUT HERE TO TAKE A LOOK AT THOSE MOLDERING OLD GRAVES. I GUESS THEY WANTED TO HAVE SOME FUN—BUT THEY GOT MORE THAN THEY BARGAINED FOR...

WE'RE SCARED, BILLY. LET'S GO HOME BEFORE SOMETHING HAPPENS!

WE MIGHT MEET A **GHOST** OR SOMETHING!

BUT YOU KNOW THE STORIES PEOPLE TELL ABOUT THIS PLACE! MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE!

AW, QUIT YOUR WHINING! THIS IS A REALLY NEAT GRAVEYARD! AND **SPOOKY**, TOO!

# THE THINGS IN THE DARK

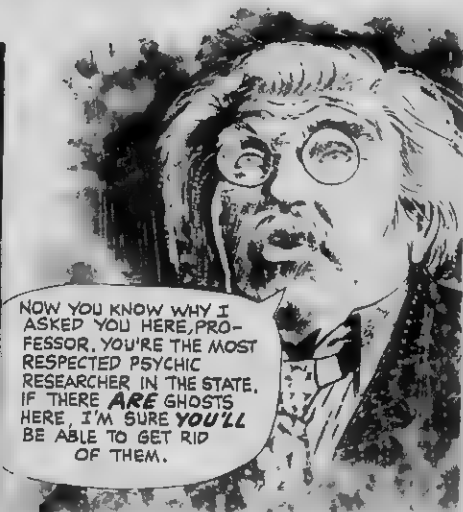
NO OLD **GHOST STORIES** ARE GONNA SCARE **ME**! IF THERE'S REALLY SPOOKS AND MONSTERS HERE, THEN I'M GONNA MEET THEM FACE-TO-FACE!

...WHERE IS HE? CAN YOU SEE HIM?

NO! HE WENT BEHIND THOSE BUSHES OVER THERE...WE BETTER GET OUT OF HERE! THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE CREEPS



SO THE CHILDREN RAN AWAY, LEAVING THEIR  
FRIEND BEHIND. THE BOY CALLED 'BILLY' WAS  
NEVER SEEN AGAIN...



ALTHOUGH I AM A DOCTOR OF THE OCCULT, MR. WITHERS, I DO **NOT** BELIEVE IN GHOSTS. I AM POSITIVE **EVERYTHING** HAS A LOGICAL EXPLANATION, NO MATTER HOW STRANGE OR FRIGHTENING IT MAY SEEM.

THEN YOU'LL HELP ME?

YES, I'LL LOOK INTO YOUR PROBLEM, BUT FIRST, I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN THE CARETAKER OF THIS CEMETERY FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS, MR. WITHERS—YET AM I TO UNDERSTAND THAT DURING ALL THAT TIME, YOU'VE NEVER **SEEN** ANYTHING UNUSUAL TAKE PLACE HERE?

THAT'S RIGHT, PROFESSOR...

YOU SEE, I HAVE NO FRIENDS. NOBODY WANTS TO KNOW A USELESS OLD MAN LIKE ME. PEOPLE THINK I'M STUPID AND FOOLISH. SO I HAVE NO REASON TO LEAVE THIS COTTAGE AFTER MY DAYS WORK IS DONE. I'M USUALLY ASLEEP AT NIGHT WHEN THOSE TRAGEDIES OCCUR.

I SEE, WELL, I'LL DO MY BEST TO HELP YOU, MR. WITHERS. NOW YOU MUST TAKE ME TO THE SPOT WHERE THAT BOY VANISHED.

NOBODY VISITS THIS CEMETERY ANY MORE, PROFESSOR. THERE HAVEN'T BEEN ANY NEW BURIALS HERE IN MONTHS. ONLY THE SNOOPING CHILDREN COME HERE. IF YOU DON'T RID THIS GRAVEYARD OF ITS CURSE, PROFESSOR, THE COUNTY MAY ABANDON IT. THEN I'LL BE OUT OF A JOB!

I CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERN, MR. WITHERS.



THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE THE BOY DISAPPEARED, PROFESSOR.

HHMM... DOESN'T SEEM VERY SUSPICIOUS... BUT WAIT—THERE'S SOMETHING THERE, IN THE LIGHT...



IT APPEARS TO BE SOME TYPE OF LOATHSOME **SLIME!** VERY ODD... BUT WHAT COULD IT MEAN?

ONE THING IS CERTAIN: WHATEVER LEFT THAT SLIME WAS NO **GHOST**. IT WAS **ALIVE**, AND I'VE BROUGHT JUST THE THING TO TAKE CARE OF IT! THE SLIME LEADS IN A TRAIL OVER TOWARDS YOUR GRAVES, MR. WITHERS. LET'S GO SEE.

LOOK THERE—A HOLE! AND IT APPEARS TO LEAD DOWN INTO THAT GRAVE! WHATEVER LEFT THIS TRAIL OF SLIME IS NOW HIDING SOMEWHERE UNDER THE GROUND...

BE CAREFUL, PROFESSOR!

IN CASES SUCH AS THIS, I HAVE FULL AUTHORITY TO TAKE WHATEVER STEPS ARE NECESSARY. THE GRAVE MUST BE OPENED. PERHAPS NOW WE'LL FIND OUT WHAT SORT OF 'GHOSTS' ARE HAUNTING YOUR CEMETERY.



GOOD LORD! **SOMETHING** ATE ITS WAY INTO THE COFFIN, PROFESSOR!

LET'S SEE WHAT IT WAS!

MY GOD—WHAT... WHAT COULD IT POSSIBLY BE??

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!



IT'S SOME KIND OF MONSTROUS, MUTATED **WORM!** AND AT THE RISK OF DOUBTING MY OWN SANITY, I'D SAY IT HAS **DEVoured** THE CORPSE THAT WAS IN THIS COFFIN!

IT'S TOO **HORRIBLE** FOR WORDS, PROFESSOR!

THE CREATURE IS DEAD, THANK GOD. JUDGING BY ITS DEHYDRATED CONDITION, I'D SAY IT APPARENTLY DIED OF **STARVATION**.

LET'S GET AWAY FROM HERE, PROFESSOR, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE! THIS IS SOMETHING HORRIBLE AND UNHOLY!

YOU ASKED ME TO DO A JOB, MR. WITHERS. I'M NOT LEAVING UNTIL I'VE FINISHED THAT JOB, AND UNCOVERED THE **FACTS** BEHIND THE MYSTERY OF THIS GRAVE-YARD!

BUT—A **MONSTER** LIKE THIS COULD BE DANGEROUS! I CAN'T ASK YOU TO RISK YOUR LIFE, PROFESSOR! IF THIS **THING** WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DISAPPEARANCES OF ALL THOSE PEOPLE, THEN—

LOOK OUT, WITHERS! BEHIND YOU!

UMF!

GONE!... BUT I'M SURE IT WAS ANOTHER MONSTROUS **WORM!** THIS CEMETERY MUST BE **INFESTED** WITH THEM. THERE COULD BE **DOZENS** OF THEM, **HUNDREDS** OF THEM. **THEY** ARE YOUR 'GHOSTS', MR. WITHERS!

PROFESSOR! OVER HERE!

ANOTHER TUNNEL!

JUST AS I SUSPECTED! YOUR CEMETERY IS PROBABLY HONEY-COMBED WITH SUCH TUNNELS, MR. WITHERS—EACH ONE LEADING TO A FRESH GRAVE.

BUT WHY  
TO A  
**GRAVE**  
PROFESSOR?

BECAUSE I BELIEVE THOSE HIDEOUS  
MONSTER-WORMS **FEED** ON THE  
CORPSES! I DON'T KNOW WHERE  
THEY COME FROM, OR HOW, BUT I **DO**  
KNOW THEY MUST BE DESTROYED. I  
NEED TO FIND OUT HOW VAST THEIR  
TUNNEL SYSTEM IS, AND THE ONLY  
WAY I CAN DO THAT IS TO  
**ENTER** THE TUNNELS!

BUT YOU CAN'T DO THAT, PROFESSOR!

THAT WOULD  
BE INSANE!

DON'T BE AFRAID WITHERS.  
MY GUN WILL BE PROTECTION  
ENOUGH AGAINST THOSE FOUL  
THINGS. THIS IS AN **ADVENTURE**  
I CAN'T PASS UP!  
FOLLOW ME!

THOSE WORMS HAVE BEEN HERE JUST  
RECENTLY. THERE'S STILL SOME OF THEIR  
SLIME ON THE TUNNEL FLOOR, AND CAN  
YOU SMELL THAT MUSTY STENCH, MR.  
WITHERS?? ITS THE STENCH OF DEATH  
AND DECAY!

GOOD LORD—SO **THIS**  
IS WHERE THOSE  
CREATURES DRAG THEIR  
VICTIMS TO BE  
DEVoured!

THERE THEY ARE!  
THEY'RE WAITING FOR  
US! WE'LL HAVE TO—  
**WITHERS!**  
**WHERE ARE YOU?**

HE'S GONE!  
AND SO IS MY  
GUN! THAT FOOL  
TOOK IT!

WITHERS!  
YOU IDIOT!  
WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING??  
STOP  
PLAYING  
GAMES!

YOU THOUGHT YOU  
WERE CLEVER, PROF.  
VON METZ, BUT YOU  
WERE REALLY SUCH  
A FOOL! YOU BE-  
LIEVED IT WOULD BE  
AN ADVENTURE, AND  
SO YOU FELL  
INTO MY  
LITTLE TRAP!



WHY YOU'RE A RAVING  
**MADMAN!** YOU KNEW  
ABOUT THOSE MONSTERS  
ALL ALONG! LET ME  
OUT OF HERE !!



WHEN I SAID I HAD NO FRIENDS,  
PROFESSOR, I MEANT NO **HUMAN**  
FRIENDS! ALL MY LIFE, PEOPLE HAVE  
KEPT AWAY FROM ME, SAYING I WAS  
CRAZY, THEN WHEN I CAME TO  
THIS CEMETERY, I FINALLY FOUND  
CREATURES I COULD CALL MY  
FRIENDS, MY **PETS!**  
FOR THE FIRST TIME  
IN MY LIFE, I  
WAS **NEEDED!**



I FOUND THOSE CREATURES, THOSE  
**FREAKS OF NATURE**, FEEDING ON  
THE BODIES THAT I BURIED, AND I  
ALLOWED THEM TO FEAST AND GROW!  
BUT NOW THERE ARE NO MORE  
CORPSES LEFT IN MY CEMETERY, SO  
I MUST GIVE MY FRIENDS **LIVE**  
MEALS TO EAT, OR ELSE  
THEY WILL STARVE!



NO, WITHERS!  
YOU CAN'T BE  
THAT INSANE!  
**HELP ME!**

NOW YOU MUST REST  
IN PEACE WITH THE OTHERS  
PROF. VON METZ - UNTIL  
I BRING ANOTHER "MEAL"  
FOR MY FRIENDS!



WELL, THAT  
WAS A MEATY  
TALE! SOMETHING  
YOU COULD  
REALLY SINK YOUR  
TEETH INTO!







# THE CRITIC'S CRYPT

## STAR TREK

Adapted by James Blish  
136 pages, Bantam Books, 60¢

Star Trek made history as a TV series. The Star Trek paperback adaptation series is making a bit of history on its own. The seventh collection of script adaptations by James Blish is currently on the stands.

This first Star Trek volume first appeared in 1967, after the show had run the first of its three seasons. The first season was a popular-philosopher's dream, the "brainiest" sci-fi show ever done on TV. It had incredibly human drama, as well as startling science fiction elements—time warps, matter transmission, and a "totally logical" Vulcan science officer, Spock.

George Clayton Johnson's "The Man Trap," has been herein retitled "The Unreal McCoy." It's about a creature on another world who can change his shape at will, and thrives by absorbing bodily salts from humans—in other words, a salt-thriving vampire. (Who says you can't have horror in science fiction?)

In "Balance of Terror," the mysterious planet Romulus attacks the starship Enterprise as first step in a plan to conquer the galaxy—and they've got something special going for them—invisibility.

Star Trek buffs will surely recognize the other teleplays adapted here by Blish: "Charlie's Law," about galactic orphan Charlie X; "Dagger of the Mind," which features a "machine of loneliness"; "The Naked Time"; "Miri," and the troubling "Conscience of the King."

## STAR TREK 2

Adapted by James Blish  
122 pages, Bantam, 60¢

One of the brighter facets of that half-cut literary stone, science fiction, is that when an author becomes immortal, he does so in his own lifetime. James Blish already sits high on a rather nice shelf labeled "author of classics," for his monumental "Cities in Flight" novels and his bright ESP classic, "Jack of Eagles." In adapting Star Trek scripts, Blish worked with the brainchildren of dozens of authors as well as the theories of the series' creator, Gene Roddenberry, and it sometimes almost becomes a case of one chef trying to package the successful broth of many cooks.

The Star Trek adaptations are written in Blish's style, for the most part successfully, though many of the intellectual extras of the TV visual experience weren't transcribed.

In this 2nd batch of 8 adaptations Blish took one special exception, "The City on the Edge of Forever," by Harlan Ellison, the very controversial harlequin eloquent author of "Rock God" (CREEPY #32). "City on the Edge of Forever" won a Best Teleplay of the Year award from the National Screenwriters Guild, and Blish mixed nicely both the final script and the unfilmable kickoff story.

There are also "Arena," "Taste of Armageddon," and the saga of Kahn, the 25th Century's Hitler, in "Space Seed."

## STAR TREK 3

Adapted by James Blish  
118 pages, Bantam, 60¢

One either loved or loathed the Star Trek TV show in many lucky cities about the country the show is being rerun in syndication. Indeed, in New York City, it's been shown every weekday evening for over two years, with no sign of letting up. If you aren't one of those blessed souls who can see the reruns, the James Blish adaptations (should you be an "ST" fan) are a must.

The book opens with one of the funniest segments of all time, "The Trouble with Tribbles," those totally worthless fuzz-ball critters, cute as hamsters, reproductive as Al Capp's Shmoos, and as musical as hamsters.

The remaining six adapted scripts includes "The Last Gunfight," set on a peculiar world where Wyatt & Morgan Earp, and Doc Holliday engage the Enterprise crew in the fabled shootout at OK Corral.

Norman Spinrad's "The Doomsday Machine," is a giant garbage dispose-all that emerges from subspace to devour entire planets and the U.S.S. Enterprise.

"Mirror Mirror," by Jerome Bixby, postulates a strange parallel universe where Mr. Spock determines to commit suicide. In "Amok Time," Mr. Spock returns to his father's home planet, Vulcan, to partake in the mating rituals. And in the odd "Assignment: Earth," the Enterprise returns to 1969 to "inspire" nuclear disarmament.

## STAR TREK 4

Adapted by James Blish  
134 pages, Bantam, 75¢

Adapting scripts from the then successful TV series, Jim Blish, long-time master of science fiction, really hit his stride with STAR TREK 4, and has kept the pace since.

The first 3 adaptations were written in Blish's sci-fi novel style, but in ST-4, Blish streamlined his descriptions and began quoting scripts more copiously, and you have good, fast-paced adventure writing.

STAR TREK 4 is over 50% Spock-oriented, which is well, as the Vulcanized logic-driven First Officer of the U.S.S. Enterprise really made the series in the first place.

In "All Our Yesterdays," unemotional Spock goes back into the past to the days of his barbarian ancestors and lets it all hang out, and even falls momentarily in love.

In "Journey to Babel" we meet Spock's parents—his human mother and his dry Vulcan father. When his mother explodes that she's fed up with all this unending logic, Spock turns to his father and asks: "Why did you marry her?" to which his father shrugs: "At the time, it seemed the logical thing to do."

Also included is "The Menagerie," the original pilot story of the series.

This reviewer's favorite of the 6 stories is "Piece of the Action," where a planet of imitative beings has one Earth book—about gangsters—and all inhabitants become musical-comedy mobsters, comical "God-fathers!"



WE HAVE BEEN  
OUT HERE FOR  
THREE HOURS  
AND STILL  
NO FISH!

I KNOW, KOBOYASHI!  
IT'S ALMOST AS IF...  
**SOMETHING** IS SCARING  
OFF THE FISH!

BUT WHAT  
COULD BE **BIG**  
ENOUGH TO FRIGHTEN  
AWAY ALL THE FISH?

YE GODS! S-SOME-  
THING IS LIFTING  
OUR BOAT! SOME-  
THING...MON-  
STROUS!

NO!

THIS IS A STORY WITH A  
MESSAGE...AND A  
**MONSTROUS** ONE AT  
THAT! BUT SEE FOR  
YOURSELF, THE **MESSENGER** IS PUTTING IN AN  
APPEARANCE (AND A **GRUESOME** ONE) RIGHT NOW!  
SPLASHING OUT OF THE WATERS JUST OFF A SMALL  
JAPANESE ISLAND IS...

# GARGANZA!

Paul Neary

IT'S GARGANZA!  
THE MONSTROUS DEMON  
OF OUR ANCESTORS! RETURNING  
...JUST LIKE THE OLD  
LEGENDS SAID!

RRROOOOAR

IT IS NOT LONG BEFORE THE CREATURE CALLED **GARGANZA** HAS STOMPED ITS WAY TO THE ISLAND TO CONTINUE ITS VENGEANCE ON PUNY MANKIND... BUT NOT BEFORE A FEW SURVIVE TO TELL THE TALE...

DR. SHIOZAKI, AS CURATOR OF FOSSIL VERTEBRATES OF THIS MUSEUM, YOU MUST HAVE SOME IDEA AS TO THE NATURE OF THIS...MONSTER.

OH THAT, I'M AFRAID I CAN ONLY SPECULATE!

THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT AS TO THE MONSTER'S EXISTENCE! THIS CREATURE THE PEASANTS CALL **GARGANZA**, AFTER SOME LEGEND SO OLD NO ONE KNOWS ITS ORIGIN!

ANY NEWS I CAN REPORT WILL PLEASE MY EDITOR!

A DINOSAUR?

NO! THE CREATURE APPARENTLY CAN REMAIN TOTALLY SUBMERGED FOR INDEFINITE PERIODS OF TIME...

...IMPOSSIBLE FOR AN AIR-BREATHING DINOSAUR! AND THE PLACEMENT OF ITS NOSTRILS INDICATES THAT THE MONSTER COULD NOT STAY UNDERWATER WITH ITS SNOUT **PEEKING** ABOVE THE SURFACE...AS IN THE CASE OF...

WELL-- IT APPEARS THAT THIS **GARGANZA** IS A PRE-HISTORIC CREATURE, FROM THE MESOZOIC ERA, SOME, SAY HUNDRED MILLION YEARS AGO!


...BRACHIOSAJRUS, HERE! NOTICE HOW THE NOSTRILS ARE ON A HUMP, BETWEEN THE EYES! OTHER AQUATIC DINOSAURS HAD AIR-STORAGE CRESTS-- BUT NOT **GARGANZA**!

BRACHIOSAURUS IS THE LARGEST KNOWN DINOSAUR! I DOUBT IF HE GREW LARGER THAN 80 FEET LONG! BUT **GARGANZA** IS APPARENTLY OVER 300 FEET IN LENGTH!

MORE LIKELY, **GARGANZA** IS A **MUTATION** OF SOME HIBERNATING REPTILIAN FORM FROM THE MESOZOIC...


...INCREASED IN SIZE...

...AND GIVEN THE ADDITION OF GILLS AND A DRAGON-LIKE BREATH OF **FIRE**-- A MUTATION CAUSED BY **MAN HIMSELF**-- SPAWNED BY THE LINGERING RADIATION OF THE **ATOMIC BOMB**! MAN CAN THANK HIMSELF FOR HIS OWN **HORROR**!



THE ENORMOUS MONSTER KNOWN AS GARGANZA HAS BEEN SPOTTED NEARING THE COASTLINE OF JAPAN. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE CREATURE IS FOLLOWING SOME INSTINCTIVE TREK TOWARD TOKYO ITSELF, SENSING THE LOCATION OF THE ATOMIC BLAST. PEOPLE ARE URGED TO KEEP CALM AND...

TAP  
TAP




WE MUST ALL RUN!  
FLEE! WHILE THERE'S  
STILL TIME!

COME ON,  
HONEY! WE'VE GOT  
TO REACH OUR CAR  
BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

**ATTENTION!**

ATTENTION! PEOPLE OF TOKYO!  
THERE IS NO NEED TO PANIC! REPEAT:  
NO NEED TO PANIC! THE ARMED MIGHT  
OF JAPAN IS ALREADY PREPARING FOR  
AN ATTACK! IF GARGANZA DOES  
ENTER THE CITY! DO NOT PANIC!  
WE ARE FULLY EQUIPPED TO  
DESTROY THE MONSTER!



DO YOU SEE  
ANYTHING YET,  
GENERAL  
ENSHIRO?

NOT YET...

WAIT! THERE IS  
SOMETHING...IN THE  
BAY! EMERGING FROM  
THE WATER! SOMETHING...  
..HUGE! QUICKLY  
SURFACING....

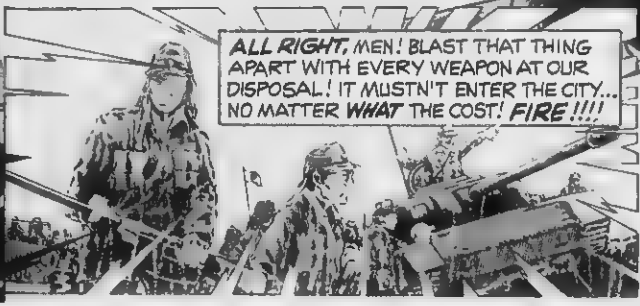
"IT'S THE  
**THING!**  
...IT'S  
**GARGANZA!**"

No!

HELP  
US!

No!

HELP  
US!



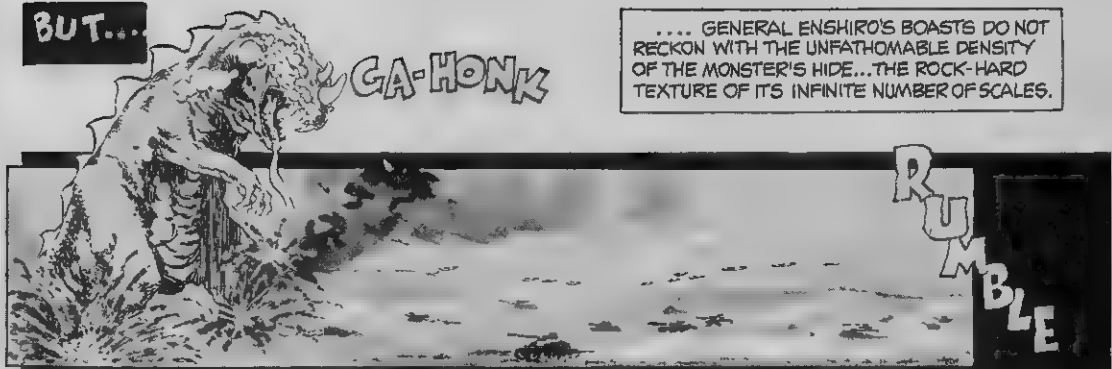
ALL RIGHT, MEN! BLAST THAT THING  
APART WITH EVERY WEAPON AT OUR  
DISPOSAL! IT MUSTN'T ENTER THE CITY...  
NO MATTER **WHAT** THE COST! **FIRE!!!!**



BUT...

GA-HONK

.... GENERAL ENSHIRO'S BOASTS DO NOT RECKON WITH THE UNFATHOMABLE DENSITY OF THE MONSTER'S HIDE...THE ROCK-HARD TEXTURE OF ITS INFINITE NUMBER OF SCALES.



OUR SHELLS...  
THEY JUST...  
**BOUNCE OFF!**  
THIS IS  
IMPOSSIBLE!

MORE  
THAN THAT...  
IT'S A NIGHT-  
MARE!

MORE  
FIRE POWER!

BLAST IT  
**AGAIN!**

BLOWWEEEEE  
BLAMMM!

BUT THE INCREASE IN FIRE ONLY SERVES TO FURTHER INFURIATE THE MONSTER CALLED **GARGANZA...**

H-HONK KKK

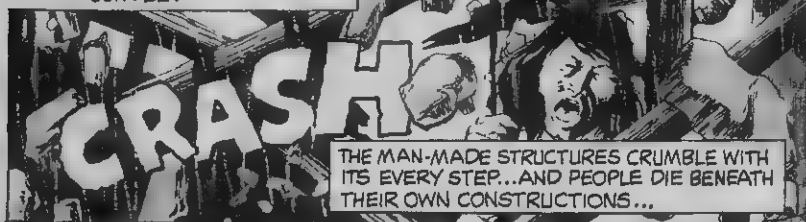
N-No! IT  
JUST SCOOPED  
US UP!

LIKE  
WE'RE IN A  
...TOY  
TANK!

D-DEAD! ALL  
OF THOSE MEN, DEAD!  
THERE'S NO WAY TO STOP...  
THAT... (CHOKE) THING! TOKYO  
...MAYBE THE WHOLE WORLD  
...(COUGH) IS DOOMED!

WITH FURIES LOCKED WITHIN ITS PREHISTORIC HEART BURSTING OUT AFTER EONS, THE MONSTER CRASHES ITS WAY THROUGH THE MODERN JUNGLE!

THERE IT IS! NOW LET'S GET IT, MEN! WITH ALL THE STUFF WE'VE GOT



THE MAN-MADE STRUCTURES CRUMBLE WITH ITS EVERY STEP...AND PEOPLE DIE BENEATH THEIR OWN CONSTRUCTIONS...

WU HUMMMFFF

BUT THESE MECHANICAL *PTERODACTYLS* MEAN LITTLE TO THE THING CALLED *GARGANZA*! AT BEST THEY ARE ANNOYANCES....TO BE MET BY THE AWESOME POWER OF..



GOD!  
IT BREATHES  
FIRE!

HSSSSSS

AGAIN AND AGAIN THE MONSTROSITY FROM THE AGE OF REPTILES LASHES OUT...BURNING, CRUNCHING, DESTROYING....

RRRROOOOOOARR!

...UNTIL WHAT WAS ONCE A BOOMING METROPOLIS IS NOW BUT A SMOKING MEMORY...

DISTANCE IS NO HINDRANCE TO THE GREAT REPTILE. AND TOKYO IS NOT ITS ONLY TARGET! SOON... AFTER MUCH DESTRUCTION AND DEATH...A GOOD AREA OF THE EASTERN HEMISPHERE HAS FALLEN PREY TO THE POWER OF *GARGANZA*!

AND THERE IS YET AN ENTIRE WORLD TO CONQUER  
...AND TO LEAVE *HER* EGGS....

EGGS...

**CRACK**

...INCUBATED UNDER THE  
LIFE-INSTILLING RAYS OF  
THE SUN...

...HATCHING YOUNG REPTILES,  
THE FIRST TO BE BORN IN  
100 MILLION YEARS...

...RELEASING UPON  
THE WORLD MINIA-  
TURE GARGANZAS,  
FREE TO GROW,  
MUTUATE AND REPRODUCE..

AND SPREAD  
THEIR NUMBERS  
OVER THE EARTH,  
FINISHING  
THEIR ACTS OF  
DESTRUCTION,  
PROPAGATING  
THROUGH SUB-  
SEQUENT AGES...

...UNTIL...

ALL EVIDENCE OF  
THE HUMAN RACE IS  
BURIED BENEATH THE  
RECURRING  
MESOZOIC JUNGLES,  
AND PADDED BY  
THE LUMBERING  
WEIGHT OF THE  
MIGHTY DINOSAURS!

**GATHONNK**

SKREEEEEEEE

SQWWKK

HSSSSSS

ONCE AGAIN....DINOSAURS COMMAND THE WORLD!

# **EPICLOGUE.**

--THE EARTH HAS LONG FOR-  
GOTTEN THE 125 MILLION YEAR  
REIGN OF THE REPTILES!

ALREADY A PRIMATE  
HAS CHOSEN TO  
WALK ERECT!

AND WITH THE ADAPTIVE  
POWERS OF NATURE, THE  
CREATURE CHANGES....  
EVOLVES....

...UNTIL A SPARK OF UNDER-  
STANDING EXCITES THE  
CELLS OF HIS BRAIN!

AGES PASS...

...AND AGAIN GREAT CITIES  
GIVE TESTIMONY TO MAN'S  
DOMINION OVER THE  
BRUTISH ANIMALS...

...ONLY TO RESULT  
IN THE GREAT  
MUSHROOM CLOUD!

THREE HOURS,  
KITAGOWA! THREE  
HOURS AND STILL  
NO FISH!

I KNOW!  
WAIT, DO YOU....FEEL  
SOMETHING PRESSING  
AGAINST THE BOTTOM  
OF OUR BOAT?

SOUNDS LIKE A  
WRETCHED RE-  
RUN, EH, REPTILE  
ENTHUSIASTS!  
THIS IS WHERE  
WE CAME IN!



**IN TEARS BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE  
EERIE BACK ISSUES?  
WIPE AWAY THE TEARS! COMPLETE YOUR  
COLLECTION AND ORDER BACK ISSUES NOW!**



1970 YR'BK



1971 YR'BK



1972 YR'BK



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



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10



11



12



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14



15



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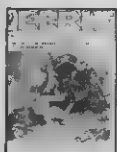
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47

**BEEN FEELING CREEPY  
LATELY? EERIFY YOURSELF  
BY SENDING FOR THESE  
MONSTERIFFIC BACK  
ISSUES TODAY... OR  
WE'LL HANG YOU BY YOUR  
OVERSTUFFED GOLEM!**



**DON'T WAIT! MAIL THIS COUPON TODAY!!!**

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**EERIE BACK ISSUE DEPT. E-46**  
P.O. BOX 430, Murray Hill Station  
New York, N.Y. 10016

I enclose \$\_\_\_\_\_ for back issues

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

YOU'VE SEEN THEM ON *YOUR* CORNER, DEAR READER--THOSE LEGIONAIRES OF THE *LIVING DAMNED*. NO HAMLET WOULD BE COMPLETE WITHOUT ITS *TOWN DRUNK*... GOOD FOR A *LAUGH*... WILLING TO SUFFER ANY *HUMILIATION* FOR ONE MORE SIPOF THE *POISON* THAT KEEPS HIM *HALF-ALIVE*.

AND WHAT CITY-DWELLER HAS NOT SEEN THEIR *PITIFUL* PLEAS FOR A DIME *BRUSHED ASIDE*--OR FACES TURNED IN *DISGUST* FROM THE SIGHT OF THE FILTHY *SUB-HUMAN* SNORING IN A *DOORWAY*, HEAD PILLOWED ON EMPTY *BOTTLE*?

GENTLER FOLK BREATHE A *PRAYERFUL THANKS* THAT "THERE, BUT FOR THE GRACE OF *GOD*, GO I." BUT NO ONE THANKS THE *MISERABLE WRETCH* WITHOUT WHOSE GRACE NONE OF *US* WOULD GO *ANYWHERE AT ALL*!

FOR IT TOOK ONE SUCH--A DESPERATE, *SEEDY-LOOKING* SPECIMEN WITH *SHAGGY* BEARD AND *FADED* DENIM CLOTHES AND *SHAKY* HANDS--TO PRUNE THAT WHICH WOULD HAVE *DESTROYED YOU*! IT TOOK DRUNKEN ABE ROSENGARTEN TO CUT DOWN TO SIZE...

# ROOT-EGG





M'NAME'S ABE ROSENGARTEN, MISSUS. HOPE THE JOB AIN'T FILLED. TOOK ME A WHILE TO GET HERE.

GUESS IT IS ABOUT COCKTAIL TIME. COULD YOU PUT SOME SW IN IT. BUT NOT TOO MUCH...

I MEANT NOT TOO MUCH LEMONADE.

MISS MUMM. CHRIS MUMM. I'LL TELL PROFESSOR THUMB YOU'RE HERE. YOU LOOK-- WEARY. CAN I OFFER YOU A LEMONADE... OR ANYTHING?

ABOUT TWO FINGERS?



PROFESSOR... THERE'S AN APPLICANT ON THE PATIO.

ANOTHER COLLEGE BOY ON VACATION?

NO. HE APPEARS QUITE... UNATTACHED. I THINK HE'S A... DERELICT. BUT HE SEEMS SINCERE ABOUT WORKING.



EXCELLENT, CHRIS! I'LL INTERVIEW HIM IN THE HOTOUSE.

PLEASE, PROFESSOR! YOU KNOW I DON'T LIKE TO BE TOUCHED...

IF ONLY YOU COULD SEE MY LOVE, AND NOT MY DEFORMITY...



I SEE YOU AS A GREAT SCIENTIST, AND I'M HONORED TO ASSIST. IT'S JUST I-- I'VE SIMPLY NO DESIRE FOR ANY INTIMATE INVOLVEMENTS WITH ANYONE.

PERHAPS YOU'LL SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY WHEN MY THEORIES ARE PROVED.



WELCOME, MR. ROSENGARTEN. SHALL WE GET RIGHT DOWN TO CASES?

HOW DO, SIR? I'D SURE LIKE TO GET DOWN TO ONE. OR UP TO ONE.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT MANKIND?

HUH? OH, OKAY, I GUESS. I CAN TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT.

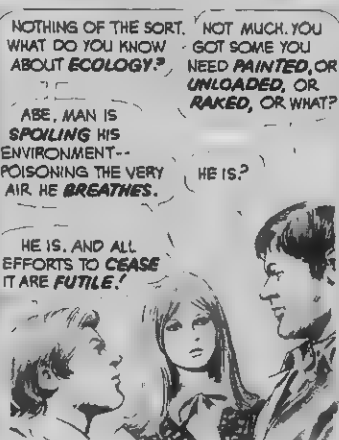
ANOTHER DRINK FOR OUR GUEST, MISS MUMM.



I WON'T MINCE WORDS. I'M A SCIENTIST, YOU'RE A BUM. YET TOGETHER WE CAN PERHAPS SAVE MANKIND FROM EXTINCTION.

YOU'LL HAVE NUTRITION... ALL YOU WANT TO DRINK... AND A WARM, DRY PLACE TO SLEEP IT OFF. INTERESTED?

I AIN'T GONNA GO GEEK-- BITIN' HEADS OFF LIVE CHICKENS IN NO SIDESHOW. I AIN'T THAT LOW... NOT YET.



NOTHING OF THE SORT. WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ECOLOGY?

ABE, MAN IS SPOILING HIS ENVIRONMENT-- POISONING THE VERY AIR HE BREATHEES.

HE IS, AND ALL EFFORTS TO CEASE IT ARE FUTILE!

NOT MUCH. YOU GOT SOME YOU NEED PAINTED, OR UNLOADED, OR RAKED, OR WHAT?

HE IS?



ANOTHER?

UH... D'YA S'POSE YOU COULD LEAVE THE BOTTLE?

ANTI-- POLLUTION DEVICES OR NOT, IT IS TOO LATE TO TURN THE CLOCK BACK. THE ONLY HOPE IS FOR MAN TO ADAPT TO THE RUINED ATMOSPHERE.







'BOUT LIKE ALWAYS. I GET SICK MORNIN'S FROM THE SWEET SMELL. HOW 'BOUT MOVING THAT ROSEBUSH?

CAN'T. PROF THUMB'S USING IT IN YOUR EXPERIMENT.

I WAKE UP SOMETIMES WHEN HE'S MESSIN' AROUND, BUT I'M PRETTY CLOUDY BY THEN. HOW'S IT GOING.

HE HASN'T TOLD ME. HE SEEMS PLEASED, BUT HE'S UNDERSTANDABLY SECRETIVE ABOUT THIS PHASE OF THE PROJECT.



WHA--! WHAT IS IT?

IT'S... MORNING AGAIN. I BROUGHT YOUR, ER, BREAKFAST...

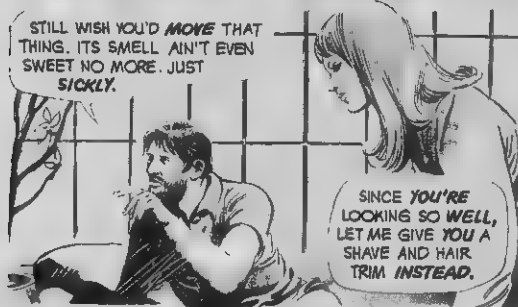


SAY, MY SHAKES AIN'T SO BAD THIS MORNIN'. WHAT DAY IS THIS?

AND WHAT BOTTLE?

YOUR FIFTH.

SAME ANSWER. YOU'VE CUT DOWN, AND IT SHOWS.



STILL WISH YOU'D MOVE THAT THING. ITS SMELL AIN'T EVEN SWEET NO MORE. JUST SICKLY.

SINCE YOU'RE LOOKING SO WELL, LET ME GIVE YOU A SHAVE AND HAIR TRIM INSTEAD.

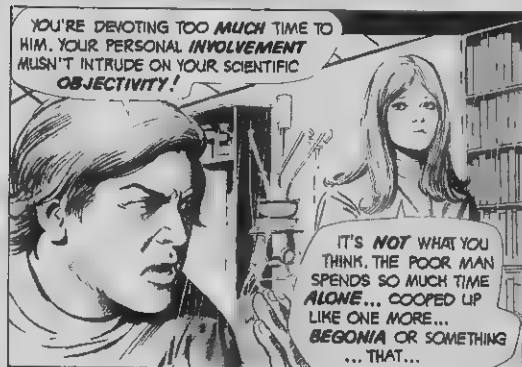


WHY--YOU'RE POSITIVELY HANDSOME! NEVER UNDERESTIMATE A WOMAN WITH PRUNING SHEARS.

HEY, HOW 'BOUT THAT?

MISS MUMM... CHRIS... WHERE ARE YOU?

OOOPS! DUTY CALLS! SEE YOU LATER.



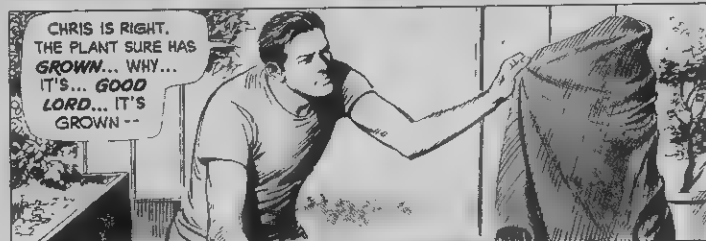
YOU'RE DEVOTING TOO MUCH TIME TO HIM. YOUR PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT MUSN'T INTRUDE ON YOUR SCIENTIFIC OBJECTIVITY!

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK. THE POOR MAN SPENDS SO MUCH TIME ALONE... COOPED UP LIKE ONE MORE... BEGONIA OR SOMETHING ... THAT...



--THAT YOU'RE COMPELLED TO LAISH UPON HIM THE AFFECTION YOU CAN'T APPLY TO ME!

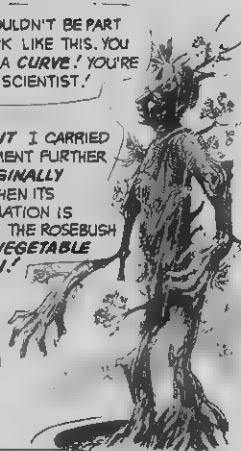
PROFESSOR! IF YOU PERSIST IN YOUR ATTENTIONS I'LL HAVE TO GIVE YOU MY RESIGNATION!



CHRIS WOULDN'T BE PART OF NO TRICK LIKE THIS. YOU THREW ME A CURVE! YOU'RE A MAD SCIENTIST!

I'LL ADMIT I CARRIED THE EXPERIMENT FURTHER THAN I ORIGINALLY PLANNED. WHEN ITS TRANSFORMATION IS COMPLETE THE ROSEBUSH WILL BE A VEGETABLE HUMAN!

BUT WHAT ABOUT ME?



VICE VERSA. YOU'LL BE SLIGHTLY SUPERIOR. YOUR INTELLIGENCE, SUCH AS IT IS, WILL BE INTACT, BUT SUBORDINATE TO MY WILL. THROUGH YOU I'LL DIRECT YOUR ALTER-EGO. IT WILL RESPOND TO YOUR MOTOR IMPULSES. JUST TO BE DROLL, LET'S CALL HIM TWIGGY.

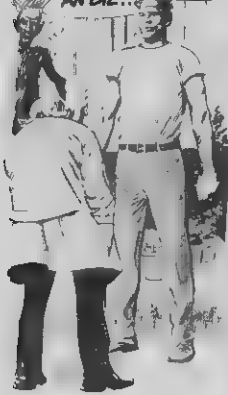


I'VE HAD D.T.'S BEFORE, BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS!

YOU'RE NOT HALLUCINATING! YOU'LL BE THE WORLD'S FIRST TOTAL TRANSPLANT! BE PROUD, FOR YOU ARE A NEW STAGE IN MAN'S EVOLUTION.



YOU'RE THE SEED-PLANT, ABE. TWIGGY WILL GO FORTH, AND HIS SAP WILL BE A SERUM TO TRANSFORM OTHER HUMANS INTO LIKE CREATURES. SADLY, LIKE ALL SEED-BEARERS, YOU WILL SOON WITHER AND DIE...



...BUT BETTER THIS WAY THAN IN A DOORWAY SOMEWHERE. I HAVE GIVEN YOUR USELESS LIFE MEANING.



NOTHING DOING! I'LL TAKE THE DIGNITY OF DEATH ON SKIDROW GANGWAY! I'M GETTIN' OUTTA HERE!

INDEED? --HOW FAR DO YOU THINK YOU'LL RUN ON THOSE?



I AM YOUR GOD NOW, ABE. AND TOMORROW THE WORLD'S...

MY FEET-- TURNING TO ROOTS! OH MY GOD!



'...THE NEW SPECIES WILL WORSHIP AND SERVE ME. THE VEGEPEOPLE WILL BE ROOTED TO THEIR DESKS, LATHES AND MILKING STOOLS. THE FRUITS OF THEIR LABORS WILL BE MINE TO DISPENSE TO THE CHOSEN FEW EXEMPTED FROM THAT FATE. MISS MUMM WILL BE QUEEN OF MY HAREM...'



I-I'LL ...M MUST FIGHT-- MAKE MY MIND BLANK-- B-BUT... I CAN'T!

YOU'LL DO NOTHING EXCEPT TRANSMIT MY COMMANDS TO YOUR NEW TWIN... YOU CAN'T RESIST! I CULTIVATED YOU... NURTURED YOU... CREATED YOU... NOW, PAY CAREFUL ATTENTION...



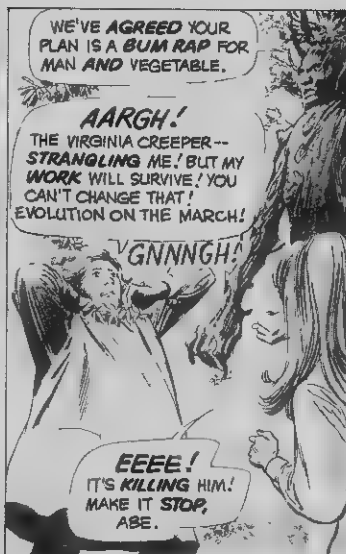




YOU MADE **ONE** MISTAKE, THUMB. I'M A GONER, BUT SO ARE YOU.

SILENCE, **WEED!**  
MY PLAN IS A COMPLETE **TRIUMPH!**

TOO GOOD.  
YOU MADE ME  
ABLE TO  
**COMMUNICATE**  
WITH ALL MY NEW  
BROTHERS...



WE'VE AGREED YOUR  
PLAN IS A **BUM RAP** FOR  
MAN AND VEGETABLE.

**AARGH!**  
THE VIRGINIA CREEPER--  
**STRANGLING ME!** BUT MY  
WORK WILL SURVIVE! YOU  
CAN'T CHANGE THAT!  
EVOLUTION ON THE MARCH!

**VGNNNGH!**

**EEEE!**  
IT'S KILLING HIM!  
MAKE IT STOP,  
ABE.



IT WAS **HIM**  
OR **EVERYBODY**  
ELSE... HONEY.

ABE--MY MIND IS  
REELING. HOW CAN I  
TURN YOU **BACK** INTO  
YOU?



YOU CAN'T, AND MY  
**ALTEREGO** IS STILL ON  
THE **RAMPAGE**. T-THERE'S  
ONLY **ONE** WAY TO--WELL,  
--NIP IT IN THE BUD...

YOU CAN'T  
MEAN--?



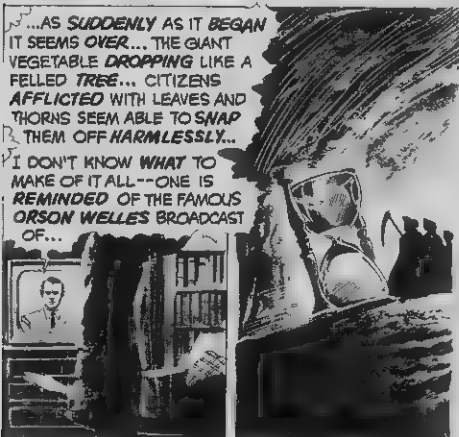
YOU GOTTA, CHRIS! **THIS**  
TIME IT'S **ME** OR **EVERYBODY**  
ELSE. PICTURE A **MUG** LIKE  
ME-- SAVING THE **WORLD**.  
GUESS I WAS--



--**BORN** FOR IT!

**SNIPPP-SNAP!**

**AAAAIEEEEE!**



...AS **SUDDENLY** AS IT **BEGAN**  
IT SEEMS **OVER**... THE **GIANT**  
VEGETABLE **DROPPING** LIKE A  
FELLED **TREE**... CITIZENS  
AFFLICTED WITH LEAVES AND  
THORNS SEEM ABLE TO **SNAP**  
THEM OFF **HARMLESSLY**...  
I DON'T KNOW **WHAT** TO  
MAKE OF IT ALL--ONE IS  
REMINDED OF THE **FAMOUS**  
**ORSON WELLES** BROADCAST  
OF...



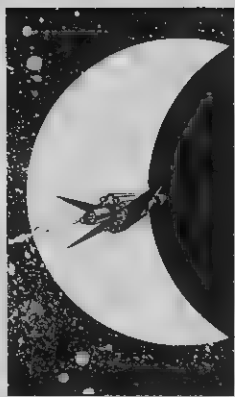
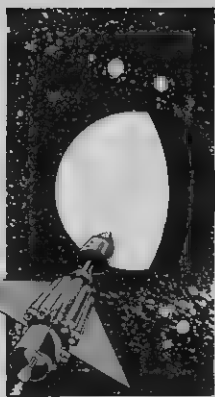
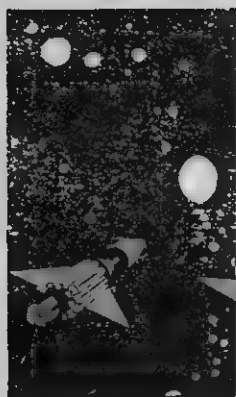
400 MORE AND  
WE'N GET A **JUG** OF  
**MUSCATEL**.

**TIMES SQUARE** **ROSIE'S**  
MAKIN' A SALE. SHE ALWAYS  
**CHIPS IN** WHEN SHE  
**SCORES**.

FUNNY, AIN'T  
IT? THE **POOR OLD**  
CRAZY DON'T EVEN **DRINK**  
NONE HERSELF. **WUNNER**  
WHY SHE **DOES** IT.

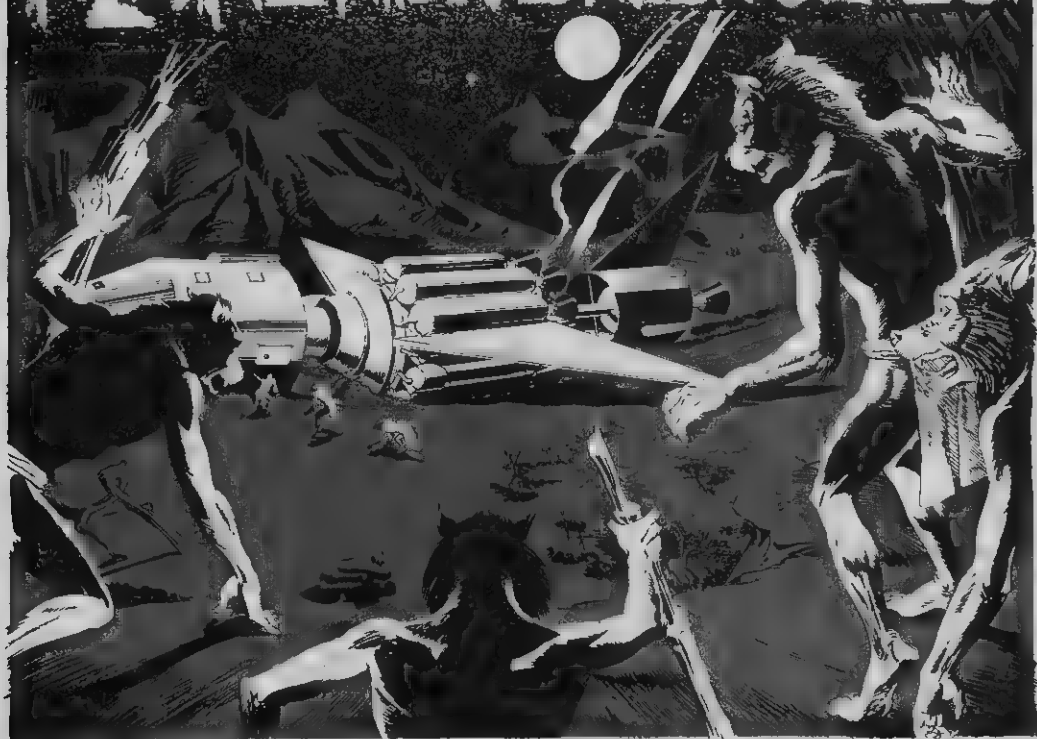
DON'T FORGET  
TO WATER YOUR  
PLANTS, **NATURE**  
LOVERS!





THE NOCTURNAL STILLNESS, CHARACTERISTIC OF DISTANT SPACE, SUGGUMBED TO THE WHIRRING MOTORS AND PENETRATING PROBE LIGHTS OF THE STARSHIP 7, WITH ITS THREE AMERICAN COMMANDERS. HERE IN THIS BOUNDLESS CORNER OF THE UNIVERSE, THE CRAFT SLITHERS THROUGH GALAXIES AN ETERNITY BEYOND MAN'S MOST IMPETUOUS DREAMS. THEN THE HEARD IT—A HARSH COUGH THAT ECHOED THROUGHOUT THE SILENT THROES OF SPACE. FINALLY THE CRAFT COUGHED NO MORE, THE WHIRRING ENGINES SPUTTERED, AND THE STARSHIP DRIFTED HELPLESSLY TOWARD THE

# PLANET OF THE WEREWOLVES!





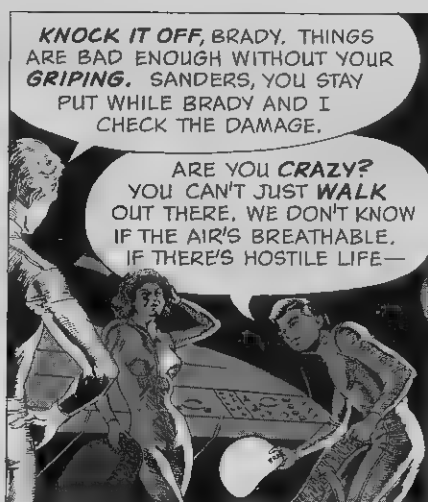
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE **ALIVE**. SHAKEN BUT ALIVE.

A LOT OF GOOD **THAT** DOES US. THE RADIO'S **USELESS**. IF EVER **ANYONE** FINDS US, THERE WON'T EVEN BE ANY **BONES** LEFT TO CARRY BACK.

SANDERS

BRADY

PARKE

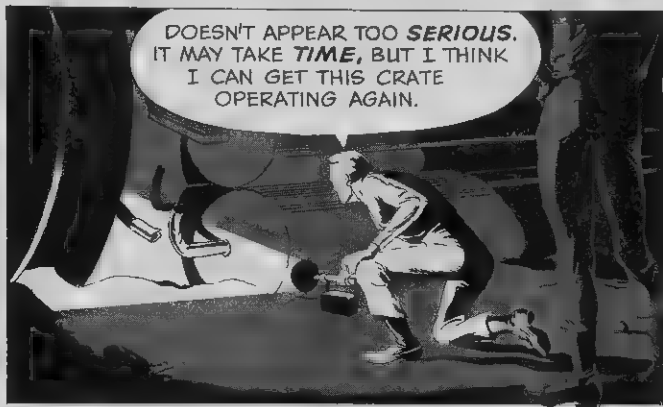


**KNOCK IT OFF**, BRADY. THINGS ARE BAD ENOUGH WITHOUT YOUR **GRIPING**. SANDERS, YOU STAY PUT WHILE BRADY AND I CHECK THE DAMAGE.

ARE YOU **CRAZY**? YOU CAN'T JUST **WALK** OUT THERE. WE DON'T KNOW IF THE AIR'S BREATHABLE. IF THERE'S HOSTILE LIFE—

YOU GOT A **BETTER** IDEA, FRIEND? IF WE STAY IN THIS BLASTED SHIP, WE'RE DEAD ANYWAY. OUT THERE WE HAVE A **FIGHTING** CHANCE, SO **SHUT UP** AND GRAB A LANTERN.

THE WAVERING GLINT OF THE LANTERN EATS ITS WAY THROUGH EBONY DARKNESS AS PARKE AND BRADY SURVEY THE CRIPPLED SHIP...



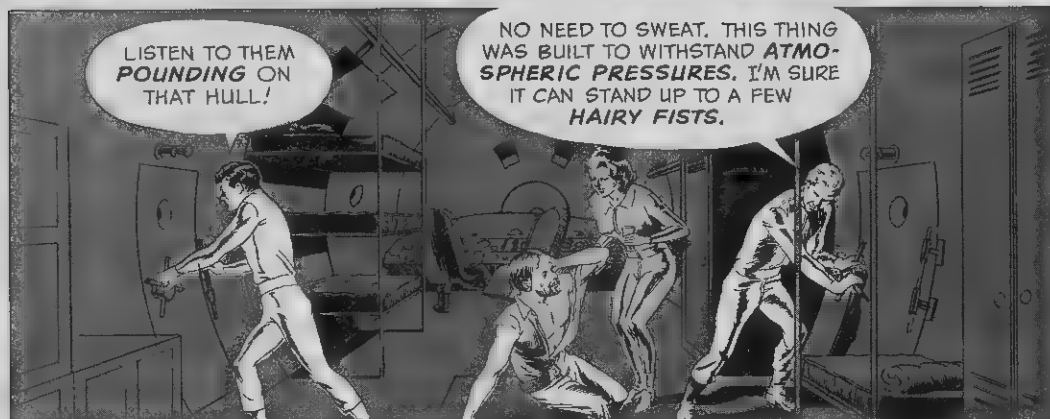
DOESN'T APPEAR TOO **SERIOUS**. IT MAY TAKE **TIME**, BUT I THINK I CAN GET THIS CRATE OPERATING AGAIN.



SAY, CAPTAIN. DO YOU HEAR SOMETHING? SOUNDS LIKE IT'S COMING FROM OUT **THERE**—



LOOK!



YOU SPEAK  
ENGLISH?  
WHO ARE  
YOU?

"AN EARTHMAN, LIKE  
YOURSELF, A VOLUNTEER  
ON A GOODWILLANCE  
MISSION. BUT ON THE  
RETURN JOURNEY, THE  
SHIP SUFFERED MECHAN-  
ICAL FAILURE AND I  
WAS STRANDED ON  
THIS DESOLATE PLANET."

"THOSE CREATURES  
OUT THERE... WHAT  
ARE THEY?"

"THE ONLY REMNANT OF LIFE ON THIS  
PLANET—WEREWOLVES!" LONG AGO THERE  
WAS ANOTHER RACE, THE HUIJIRI, BUT  
THEY ARE NOW VIRTUALLY EXTINCT, IN  
THEIR PLACE ARE THE WEREWOLVES

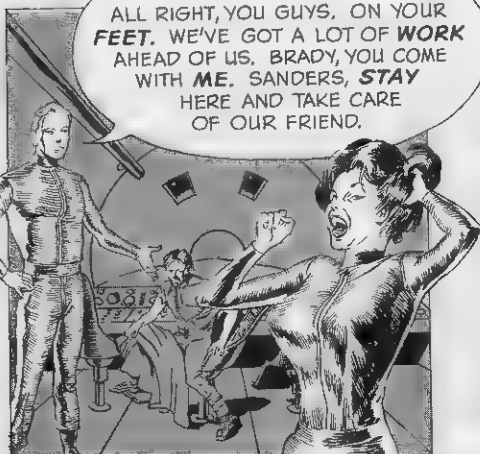
BY NOW, FOOD HAS BECOME  
SO **SCARCE**, THEY OFT-TIMES PREY  
ON EACH OTHER. BY DAY THEY DWELL  
IN **CAVES** UP IN THOSE NEARBY  
MOUNTAINS AND AT NIGHT  
THEY **PROWL**.

FOR MONTHS I'VE BEEN  
**STALKED** BY THOSE VILE  
MONSTERS... EVERY NIGHT  
WONDERING IF I WOULD FEEL  
THOSE **YELLOWED FANGS**  
TEARING AT MY THROAT.  
EVERY MORNING WONDERING  
HOW MUCH LONGER  
I COULD GO ON.

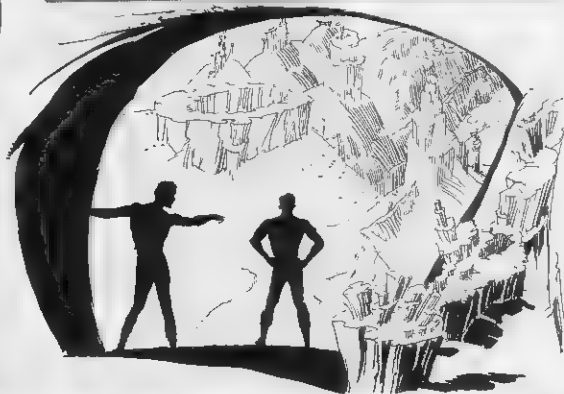
THE STRANGER'S VOICE FADES INTO THE VOID OF SLEEP THAT  
SOON OVERTAKES THE TIRED AND HUNGRY

MORNING ABOARD THE STARSHIP

ALL RIGHT, YOU GUYS. ON YOUR FEET. WE'VE GOT A LOT OF WORK AHEAD OF US. BRADY, YOU COME WITH ME. SANDERS, STAY HERE AND TAKE CARE OF OUR FRIEND.



UNDER THE BLINDING NOON SUN, BARRI-  
CADER CONTINUE THE FIGHT  
PARADEL SILVERHEAD SCENE



JUST BEFORE SUNDOWN THEY RETURN TO THE STARSHIP...

WE'D BETTER GET BACK TO THE SHIP BEFORE THOSE WOLF MEN TAKE TO PROWLING.



LOOK! THE BARRICADES HAVE BEEN TORN DOWN!

STAY HERE. I'M GOING INSIDE. IF YOU SEE A SINGLE ONE OF THOSE WOLF CREATURES, YELL YOUR HEAD OFF.



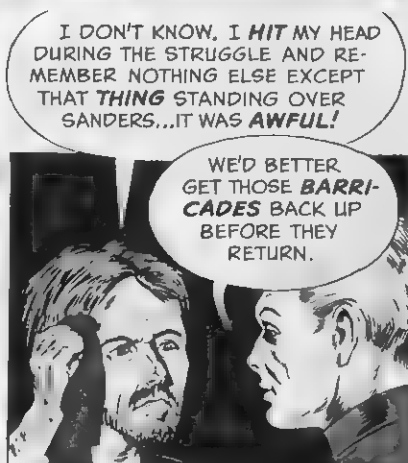
GOOD LORD... IT'S HORRIBLE!



OH GOD-- NO! NO!









BRADY, GET THE LANTERNS! THESE THINGS ARE AFRAID OF THE LIGHT.

I HOPE SO BECAUSE WE **CAN'T** KEEP UP AT THESE ODDS MUCH LONGER.

INDEED, AS THE LANTERN'S PROBING GLOW EDGES THROUGH THE STARSHIP...



IT'S **WORKING**. THEY'RE BACKING OFF!



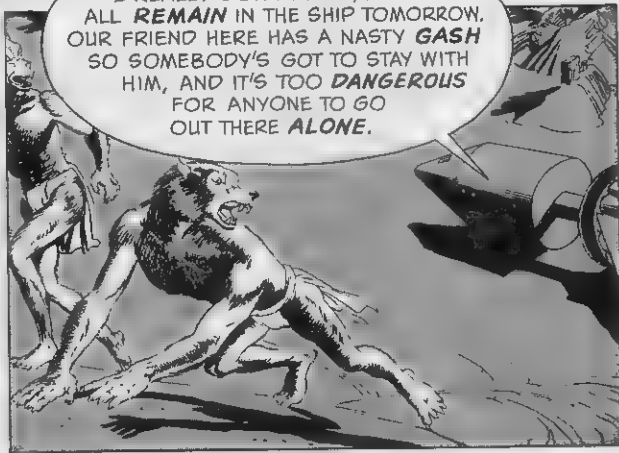
**QUICK!** GET THE BARRICADES UP BEFORE THEY RECOVER.

**WE DID IT!** WE'VE DRIVEN THEM OFF ONCE MORE.

BUT HOW MUCH LONGER CAN WE GO ON LIKE THIS?



I REALLY DON'T KNOW, BUT WE ALL **REMAIN** IN THE SHIP TOMORROW. OUR FRIEND HERE HAS A NASTY **GASH** SO SOMEBODY'S GOT TO STAY WITH HIM, AND IT'S TOO **DANGEROUS** FOR ANYONE TO GO OUT THERE **ALONE**.





BRADY, YOU AND OUR GUEST GET SOME **SLEEP**, I'M GONNA FORTIFY THIS PLACE SO IT WILL TAKE AN ATOMIC STOCKPILE TO GET THROUGH.

THE NEXT MORNING PARKE AWAKENS BRADY TO SHOW OFF HIS HANDIWORK.



WELL, THERE IT IS, IT TOOK ME ALL NIGHT, BUT **NOTHING** IS GONNA GET IN OR OUT OF THIS SHIP UNLESS WE WANT IT TO.



NOT BAD, FRIEND, BUT HOW DO WE GET **OUT** TO FIX THIS BLASTED SHIP?

...BESIDES THOSE **WEREWOLVES** ARE STILL OUT THERE.



WE OBVIOUSLY MUST WAIT UNTIL MORNING EACH DAY. ONLY THEN CAN WE LEAVE THE SHIP SAFELY.

HE'S RIGHT, BRADY. WE BEGIN WORK NOW AND CUT BACK AS SOON AS THE SUN SETS.



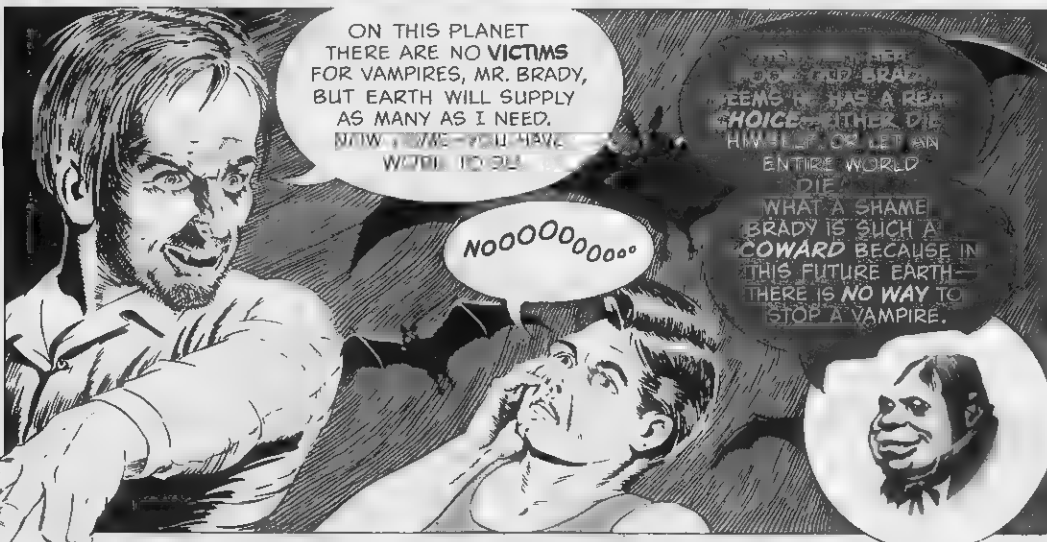
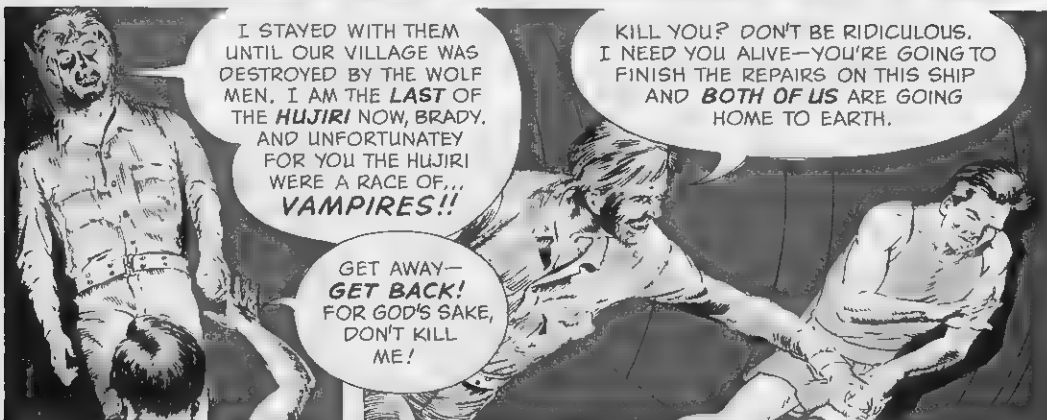
ALMOST DONE—ANOTHER TWO DAYS AND WE'LL FLY THIS STINKING CRATE BACK HOME.

MAN, I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE SO GLAD TO SEE THAT MUDBALL EARTH.



IT'S LATE—WE BETTER GET TO SLEEP EARLY SO WE HAVE A FULL DAY TOMORROW.

BRADY SPENDS A FITFUL NIGHT...SOMETHING TUGS AT HIS HEART AND SOUL...ALMOST RESENTFULLY HE OPENS HIS EYES TO SEE...



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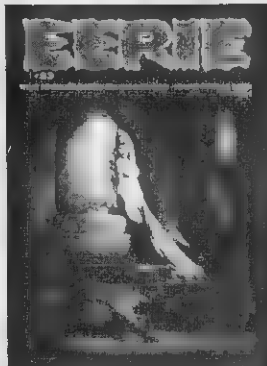
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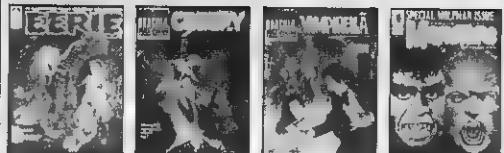
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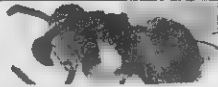
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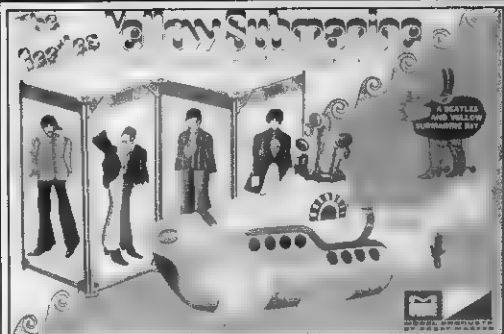


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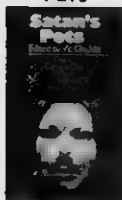
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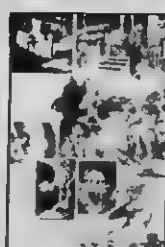
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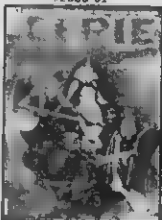
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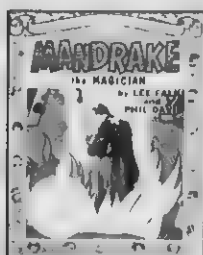
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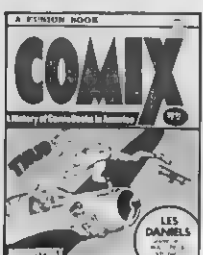
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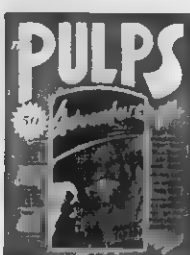
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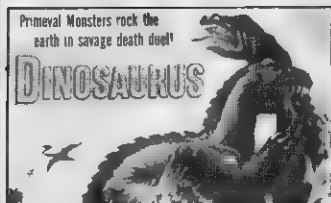
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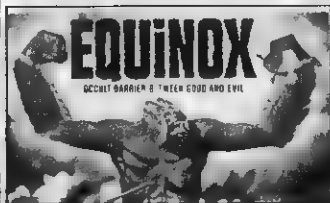
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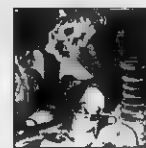
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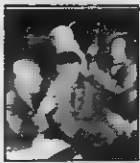
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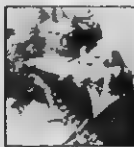
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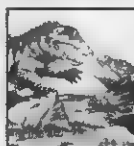
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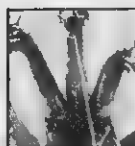
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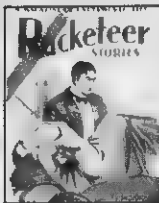
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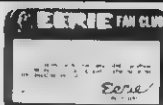
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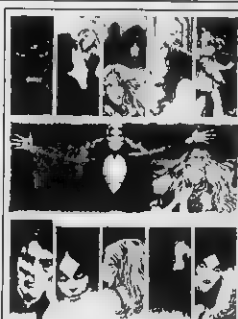
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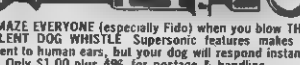
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# EERIE FANFARE

## WRITER'S PROFILE: MIKE JENNINGS



Mike Jennings, whose story "Root of Evil" is illustrated by Martin Salvador in this issue of EERIE.

I was a Depression baby," Mike Jennings says. "I was born in 1931 and my mother's been depressed ever since. Which has made her a real inspiration to me in the horror-comic field. She's a horrible comic, which explains why Henny Youngman is where she isn't today."

That may be as much sense as anyone is ever apt to make out of the versatile star of radio's nationally syndicated "The Real Michael Jennings Show."

"My whole life has been spent trying to make a comeback," he says. "The trouble is I haven't been anywhere yet."

In support of that thesis, Mike says he wrote his first comic scenario at age eight, only to get one published 32 years later. In between, the native of Buena Vista, Va., says, he mis-spent his youth

and early middleage as an Air Force public relations man in Texas, a disc jockey in Louisville, Ky., a newspaperman in New Jersey; a talk-show host on Long Island, an adman on Madison Avenue; and a drunk; not necessarily in that order.

In 1969 Mike gave up a lucrative career as a mediocre executive with G.P. Putnam's Sons, book publishers, to starve as a talented full-time freelance. Since then, in addition to his work for Warren, he has created "Mickey Spitoon, Last of the Red Hot Private Eyes," (drawn by Mike Ploog) for an adult slick magazine, and published critical essays and journalistic pieces in a variety of national media. His juvenile fantasy novella, "Mattie Fritts and the Flying Mushroom," has just been published by Windmill Books.

"The Real Michael Jennings Show," a 90-minute talk-variety radio program produced in New York City, went into national syndication in July and will make a fall debut in many locales. In addition to many big-name guests, the show features interviews with the likes of James Warren, of whom Mike says, "There's a man I'm happy to call a fiend."

Mike's advice to aspiring writers is that which he renders in his best fatherly tones to his own sons, Marc, 16; Jason, 12, and Dana, 11.

"If at first you don't succeed, you probably never will."



Mike Jennings's previous story appeared in VAMPIRELLA #17 and was drawn by Jose Bea. It was entitled "A Man's World."

# TWIST OF FATE

The slime figure of a man quickly runs down the street. To prevent the cold night air he pulls his trench coat tightly around him, but his brief case slips open and some papers fly into a black alley.

"Oh hell! My wife will kill me if I'm late again for dinner." Running into the alley he pauses seeing a white scarf swirling in the night. "What th- Eeaaghhhl! His scream is muffled.

Next day at Police Commissioner Holler's office reporters break down the door demanding answers. One newspaper asks, "due to the recent murder what new action is being taken?"

"I have no comment at this time."

"No comment," a woman abruptly interrupts. "This is the seventh murder in three weeks!"

"The police department will handle it."

Moving a microphone to the commissioner's mouth the question is raised. "There has been talk about vampires, werewolves, and demons in connection with the recent killings. Do you wish to—"

Interrupting the commissioner pounds his fist on the desk and barks, "Rubbish! Blood was not drained from the victims, nor were they ripped apart by wild beasts. We are dealing with a strangler, who— I can say no more, please leave."

As the day closes fear increases within the city. Windows are locked and doors bolted. The city is as quiet as a tombstone except for the commissioner's squad car, which roars down the street.

Swiftly the vehicle parks by a street curb and Commissioner Holler walks out followed by two police lieutenants.

"You two walk down Spenser Ave. and River Drive where the killer was last seen," says the commissioner. "Keep one hand close to your gun. There appears to be no set pattern to where or when the strangler will strike."

"Shouldn't you also have a gun sir," asks one of the lieutenants.

"Don't worry, I have my own methods of handling the culprit." Pulling his long white scarf snugly around his neck Commissioner Holler adds, "chilly night isn't it?"

As Commissioner Holler slowly walks down the street he notices the full moon beginning to shine through the clouds. Suddenly a scarf swirls over Holler's head and a mysterious figure behind him attempts to drag him to the ground. Instead the commissioner's body stiffens and he yanks the scarf away from the strangler. As Holler turns the strangler trembles in fear and backs into a brick wall.

"Fool," Holler says menacingly. "Squirm back into your hole. Men like you, who murder for no reason are dangerous to my mission. You cause other men to strike out against injustice. Evil will overpower this city and someday the country, but not by mass hysteria and panic. Only by the slow process of making people hate each other until the nation rips itself apart can evil triumph. For interfering with my mission you must pay the supreme price. Stare into the eyes of your master Satan!"

PAUL E. KING JR.



From the twisted pen and pencil, Carlos J. Acosta came this rendition of "Ch-Li, the girl who returned from Hell." Beautifully illustrated, Carlos is a talent to watch.

# SHE HAS A CAT

Fire station 57?" Misty asked over the telephone. "Yes, where's the fire?" came the voice through the receiver.

"No fire, my cat's stuck in a tree!"

"What!" the voice yelled. "We don't get cats outa trees no more!"

"But the tree's taller than our three story house and I don't have a father to get him down for me," Misty cried.

"The cat'll get down by itself! Give it an hour!"

"But it hurt itself climbing up!" She started crying. Hesitation.

"Oh alright, we're on our way!"

Misty hung up the phone and wiped away her tears. She was a ten-year-old, bright-eyed, brown-haired girl with ten boyfriends.

She walked across her third story bedroom and peered out the window. The tree extended one hundred feet over her bedroom. They were the winners of last year's tree contest for having the highest tree.

"Don't worry baby, the firemen are coming," she said in a half sob. Then she heard the siren. The large, long, red fire truck pulled up in front of her house.

While she was running down the three flights of stairs, the firemen got out a hundred foot ladder because that was how far up the first branches were. By the time she ran out the front door, there was a policeman standing by his police car, a crowd of about twenty people, ten firemen to do various jobs and a pack of dogs. And one fireman just started to make his way up the tree to Misty's cat.

By the time the fireman was half way up to the cat, half of the crowd was gone because there was no excitement, the policeman was gone for the same reason and the firemen were sitting on the ground resting their backs against the fire truck.

The fireman continued, pulling himself up the rusted ladder. He cursed quietly to himself—blast! A lousy rotten cat, and I've got to climb up—blast! You'd think they'd call the Police Department, or the Park Department. Why does every kid with a stuck cat have to yell fire? Nevertheless, the fireman continued his upward climb.

The fireman was just to the top of the house with a hundred feet to go when he cut himself. A rusty nail was sticking out of one of the branches, used to hold up the winners sign of last year's contest. It was his right leg he had cut

and when he let go of the branch he was hanging on to wipe away the blood, he almost fell. The crowd below, at least what was left, gasped and one woman screamed. The firemen yelled out vile obscenities to him and told him not to fall. It would get the grass dirty.

The fireman climbed the last one hundred feet without incident. Ahead, there was a large clump of leaves and branches which he couldn't see behind, but he saw the cat's tail sticking out into sight.

He reached up and grabbed the tail in hope of pulling it down to him but it didn't work. A large paw swung out from behind the clump and tore the fireman's hand to bloody shreds. But the fireman didn't scream. He was petrified.

Down on the sidewalk, the crowd was gone and the other firemen were all in a circle on the other side of the truck. They didn't see the fireman fall, landing on the house with a ferocious lion in hot pursuit.

EPILOGUE: The firemen went back to the fire station without the fireman. They thought he had rescued the cat and went back to the station to play a practical joke on them by making them stay there and wait for him. He wasn't at the station and didn't come in. Never. It was a mystery what had happened to him.

But not to Misty. Her "cat" jumped into the house, after the firemen left, through Misty's open window. The "cat" had saved her one of the fireman's arms.

Misty took the bloody arm that had been torn at the arm pit, and had two fingers bitten completely off with the others standing erect at the first knuckle and bent into a half circle at the other two.

"Thank you, mama!" she said happily.

She devoured the arm in just four big gulps.

Slowly, her tiny hands unbuttoned her shirt, threw it down and pulled off her pants and tossed them away.

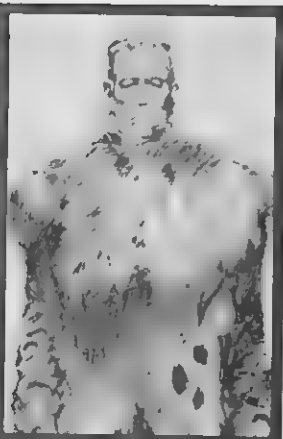
Between her buttocks a long, furry tail slowly grew. She got down on all fours and her arms and legs turned to furry, long lion's legs. After that, her body turned into a lion's stomach which hung almost to the ground, and her head turned into a furry, large nosed, wide-mouthed and long-toothed lion's head.

Together, Misty and her mother left their house to go see Misty's father at the zoo. Maybe they would have a picnic.

TERRY W. CLOUD

## FRANK'N TRACINGS?

Many fans send us pictures traced from our magazines, but Chris Campbell went them one further with this excellent rendition of our fantastic 6-ft Frankenstein Poster by Jack (Demon) Davis. Chris shows a deep knowledge of rendering and shadows in his very subtle linework. We predict an art career for our New York artist.



## THE OLD MAN

As you take a short cut through the cemetery you think back, back to that stormy night when you took shelter in the house of that old man. The old man, how odd he acted, always keeping to those books of voo-doo. Voo-doo ha! Ha! What a laugh! You were curious to find out more about the old man so you searched his home. An hour later you found GOLD! All the gold you ever dreamed of! Suddenly greed surged through your veins. You searched the house for the old man, then you found him. He was standing at the top of the stairs, "How convenient" you thought to yourself. Slowly you crept up behind him, then with one mighty lunge you sent him plunging to certain doom. You had the satisfaction of hearing some bones snap, but when he hit bottom he started to get up! So you ran down the stairs with knife in hand and when you reached the bottom you sank deep into his heart. Yet he still stood! So again and again you bored the knife into his chest until he finally

slumped to the floor—dead ... then you noticed his eyes, no matter where in the room you went they seemed to follow. It frightened you so you took your gold and fled that was days past, but now your thoughts are broken by a shuffling behind you. So you jerk around only to see nothing. "What did you expect to see, the boogie man?" you say to yourself. You start walking again, but again you hear the shuffling, so you quicken your pace yet the shuffling sounds faster, too. You then break in to a mad dash and all around you see bodies coming out of the ground, suddenly you stumble and fly into a tree. You turn your head just in time to see semi-human forms leaping at you tearing at your flesh. You try to escape but there are too many and you're too weak. You feel your life ebbing away but just before it disappears completely you see the face of one of your attackers, you scream in horror because you recognize it as the face of—the old man ...

ED J. PAHULE

## SPIRITS OF THE DEAD

It may well be insane now, but it was not always thus. It all started ten short weeks ago, when my brother paid me a visit. With him, his lovely bride, Selena.

I'm not saying I didn't like Selena, but she struck me as being a little odd. She was never seen far away from a small skull, a curia from her tour of Kenya. In fact, it seldom left her grasp!

The third week of their stay, Selena excused herself from the dinner table for just a moment. The awful skull lay in the center of the dinner spread, sickening enough, she

had left it. My brother followed shortly after.

I saw this as an ideal opportunity to study her keepsake. Picking it up, I rose from the dimly lit dining room to study it under the light. But I was clumsy in doing so, I stumbled, dropping the precious oddity, which broke into many pieces.

At that instant, I heard my brother's frenzied screams and upon entering the bedroom, I found him desperately clutching Selena's badly decomposed remains to his chest. She had no skull.

KATHY LaCLAIRE

# **CREEPY**

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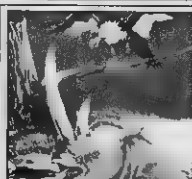
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# DAX THE WARRIOR THE GIANT

WOMAN-  
CALLED-WOONA- I  
HAVE BROUGHT YOU TO MY  
CAVE TO BECOME MY MATE!  
FIRST I MUST PRAY TO THE MASTER  
FOR A SPELL TO MAKE YOU AS  
LARGE AS I--BUT DO NOT THINK  
TO ESCAPE WHILE I AM  
AWAY: MY BEASTS ARE  
EXCELLENT GUARDIANS!

YET NO CAPTIVE CAN  
ACCEPT HIS CAPTOR'S WORDS  
AS TRUTH, SO WOONA ONLY  
BIDES HER TIME....

...BUT WHEN  
SHE ATTEMPTS  
TO FLEE--

DISCOVERED!!  
I MUST RUN  
LIKE THE  
WIND!

THE GIRL'S SCREAMS OF TERROR MINGLE WITH THE LOW HOWLS OF THE WILD BEASTS, AS SHE SCRAMBLES HEADLONG TOWARD THE PROJECTING ROCKS, BUT THE MONSTERS HAVE BEEN BRED FOR THE HUNT.



AND BEFORE SHE CAN COVER MORE THAN TWENTY YARDS, SHE FEELS THE LARGEST ONE'S STINKING BURNING BREATH ON HER NAKED BACK, WHISTLING PAST JAWS THAT WILL SNAP HER THREAD OF LIFE.



WITH EYES THAT FEAR KEEPS UNFOCUSED, SHE SEES A FIGURE...A MAN. IN HIS SCARRED, SINEWY HANDS, HE HOLDS A BOW STRING STILL AQUIVER



YOUR TRIBE TOLD ME WOONA HAD TAKEN THE PATH OF NO RETURN ACCOMPANIED BY A GIANT!

THE MONSTER WITH ONE EYE WANTED WOONA FOR HIS... COMPANION



DAX, THE WARRIOR!

LEAVE. IT IS  
SAID THE GIANT  
OFTEN JOURNEYS  
TO THE  
MOUNTAINS.

TELL ME WHICH **DIRECTION** HE WENT, AND AFTER I TAKE YOU HOME--

THE **MOUNTAIN** LIES THERE--TO THE NORTH, BUT DAX...

DAX DESIRES TO FOLLOW HIM--AND PUT AN END TO THIS STEALING OF GIRLS.

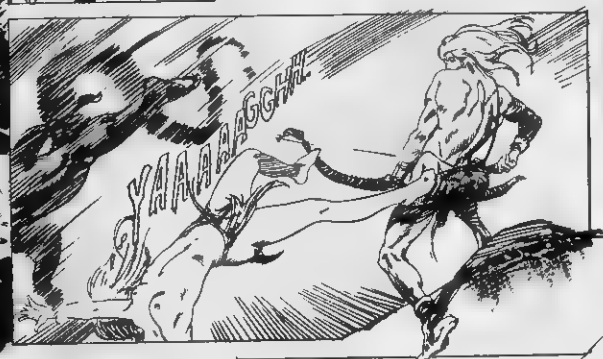
A WOMAN... BUT THERE'S NO ONE TO LOVE... UNDERSTANDS NOW... AND SILENT... OF FEAR...

I PREFER... NOW...TO GO WITH YOU.

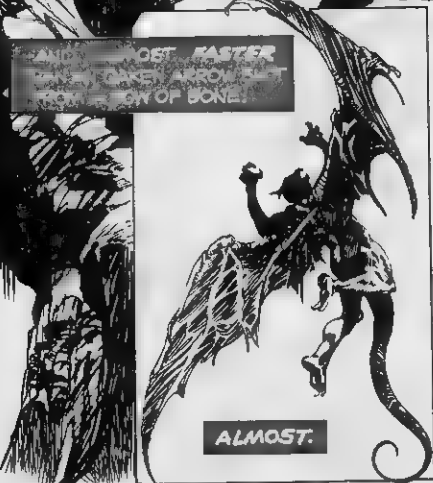


HIS ARROWS  
BLAST SKYWARD--  
ONE OF THE LEGENDS  
FALLS--

BUT THERE IS ANOTHER, FASTER  
THAN ITS BROTHER--

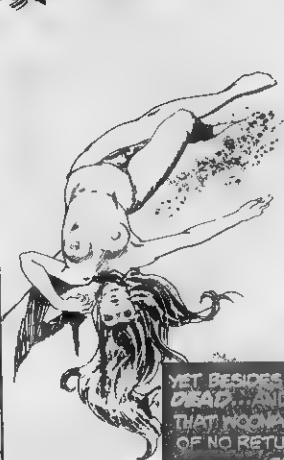


SOON, THE WAY BECOMES ROUGH AND DIFFICULT. THE MOUNTAINS ARE A PLACE FLAGGED WITH MONSTERS, ACCORDING TO THE ELDERS OF WOONA'S TRIBE. AS EVER, WOODENLY MARVELS AT THE EASE WITH WHICH LEGENDS ARE BIRTHED, BUT SUDDENLY TWO TERRIFYING SILHOUETTES FLASH INTO THE OPEN. HE TELLS HIM THAT EVERY LEGEND CONTAINS A KERNEL OF TRUTH.

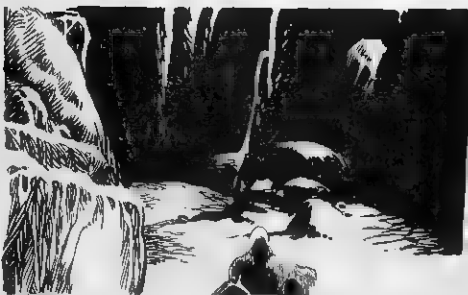


AND THE MOST FASTER  
WHEN IT TAKES AN ARROW SHOT  
FROM THE TONGUE OF BONE!

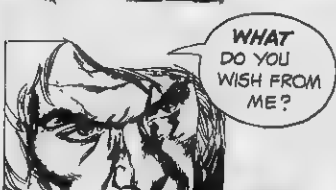
ALMOST.



YET BESIDES THE QUICK THERE ARE THE DEAD... AND AS DAK TURNS, HE SEES THAT WOONA HAS TRULY FOUND THE PATH OF NO RETURN!... AS MUST WE SOME DAY...



HALT!!



WHAT  
DO YOU  
WISH FROM  
ME?

MASTER?  
NO, OLD MAN..  
I AM NOT THE  
ONE YOU WANT.  
I ONLY DESIRE  
A PLACE  
TO FIND  
MYSELF.

HOW CAN I  
INTERVENE IN THE  
DESTINY OF OTHERS,  
WHEN I DO NOT EVEN  
KNOW MY OWN?

I WISH  
TO **SPEAK**  
WITH YOU, DAX  
THE WARRIOR.  
I HAVE WATCHED  
YOU FROM  
AFAR AND  
HAVE AN  
INTERESTING  
**PROPOSITION**  
FOR YOU.

ABRUPTLY A  
SHADOW FALLS  
ON ROSE THE WARRIOR.  
A SHADOW THROWN  
FROM HIGH ABOVE--  
AND AS DAX TOSSES  
HIS BLOND HEAD  
BACK, HE SEES

**THE  
CYCLOPS!!**

**BY  
ALL THE  
DEVILS!!**

LATER,  
OLD MAN.  
I HAVE  
BROUGHT  
THIS **GIRL**  
TO THESE  
MOUNTAINS  
TO BURY  
HER--

--BECAUSE  
YOU THINK IT **FIT-  
TING**. I AM ALWAYS  
**AMAZED** AT THE RE-  
SPECT FOR THE **DEAD**  
AND THEIR MEMORY.  
WHEN FOR THE **LIVING**,  
RESPECT IS USUALLY  
A COMMODITY  
BEYOND PRICE.

BUT THAT **MATTERS**  
NOT. **LISTEN** TO ME, DAX  
...I GROW OLD. I SEEK  
SOMEONE TO **REPLACE**  
ME AS A RULER OF MONS-  
TERS, HERE ON EARTH.  
**YOU** HAVE ALL THE QUALI-  
TIES I COUNT NECESSARY.  
**YOU CAN BECOME A  
MASTER.**

WHAT SAY YOU, DAX?

IF  
THAT IS YOUR  
**FINAL ANSWER--**  
AND I SEE THAT IT  
IS, I SHALL HELP YOU  
FIND YOUR **PLACE**  
OF PEACE...AND IT  
SHALL BE THE  
**BLACKNESS  
OF DEATH!**







**CLUD!**



IT APPEARS  
WOONA WILL  
SOON HAVE A  
COMPANION ON  
HER TRIP TO THE  
LAND OF  
WANDERING  
SOULS.



THE WARRIOR IS A TOY  
IN THE HANDS OF THE  
MONSTER. WITHIN MIN-  
UTES, DAX CAN NO  
LONGER TELL WALL  
FROM SKY OR EARTH AS  
HE TUMBLES INTO EACH.



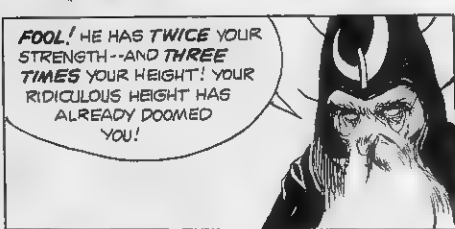
ONLY HIS *HERITAGE*  
AND YEARS OF STRIFE  
CAN HAVE PRODUCED  
THIS BODY WHICH WILL  
*NOT* BE DESTROYED--  
AND EVEN AS *BLOOD*  
FROM A HUNDRED CUTS  
WASHES OVER HIM, HIS  
BRAIN REPEATS, "I  
STILL LIVE!"



**RELAX**  
WARRIOR. DO NOT  
STRUGGLE. IF YOU DO NOT  
*WISH* TO RULE MY GANTS  
THEN *SURELY*, THEY  
MUST RULE  
YOU!



**NEVER**, OLD  
MAN! I STILL  
CARRY MY *KNIFE*  
AND MY WITS.  
YOUR MONSTER  
HAS ONLY ONE EYE  
...PERHAPS I SHALL  
*KILL* IT WHEN IT  
CANNOT SEE  
ME.



**FOOL!** HE HAS TWICE YOUR  
STRENGTH--AND *THREE*  
TIMES YOUR HEIGHT! YOUR  
RIDICULOUS HEIGHT HAS  
ALREADY DOOMED  
YOU!



I HEAR YOU,  
"MASTER"! NOW  
YOU WATCH  
ME!

WITH THE **AGILITY** THAT DESPERATION BRINGS, DAX **LAUNCHES** HIMSELF AT HIS ENEMY'S MAMMOTH LEGS! THE KNIFE **SLASHES** FORWARD ONCE, SEARCHING FOR A HEEL--

--AND THEN **ARCS** AGAIN, RIPPING AT THE OTHER!



SURPRISE, **FURY**...AND THEN **TERROR** WELL UP IN A STRANGLER ROAR FROM THE GIANT'S THROAT, AS HIS ENORMOUS FORM CRASHES TO THE GROUND, **UNABLE** TO STAND WITHOUT VITAL NERVES AND TENDONS--



SHOCKED EYES STARE  
**UNBELIEVINGLY** AT THE  
MAN WITH THE RIDICULOUS  
HEIGHT....

BUT...  
BUT IT  
**CANNOT**  
BE! YOU  
COULD NOT  
HAVE--

WHY NOT?  
THERE IS  
**NEVER** A SMALL  
ENEMY.

**I HATE**  
**WAR**, OLD MAN--BUT  
**NO ONE** INTERFERES WITH MY  
LIBERTY. THERE ARE **MANY** MEN  
LIKE ME ON THIS PLANET, AND YOU  
WILL FARE NO BETTER **AGAINST**  
THEM THAN ME. THINK WELL BEFORE  
YOU **AGAIN** ATTEMPT TO SPREAD  
FEAR OR GAIN ALLIES  
ON EARTH!

IN A **WHIRLWIND** OF ENERGY, THE **MASTER** RISES SILENTLY  
UPWARD AND **DISAPPEARS** INTO SPACE. WHO CAN SAY WHAT  
**PASSES** THROUGH HIS MIND IN THESE FINAL FEW  
MOMENTS? CERTAINLY NOT... DAX, THE WARRIOR.



CONTINUED FROM INSIDE FRONT COVER.

AFTER VLAD THE IMPALER WAS KILLED IN 1476 BY THE TURKS INVADING HIS DOMAIN, HIS BODY WAS LAID TO REST IN A SMALL MONESTARY ON AN ISLAND NEAR WHAT IS TODAY **BUCHAREST, ROMANIA.**



BUT RECENTLY, WHEN A GROUP OF AMERICAN HISTORIANS HAD THE GRAVE OPENED, **NO TRACE** WAS FOUND OF VLAD'S COFFIN OR BODY. ONE EXPLANATION IS THAT THE MONKS **MOVED** THE CORPSE, NOT WANTING A MAN OF "DRACULA'S" REPUTATION SO CLOSE TO THEIR ALTAR.



HOWEVER, THE MORE SUPERSTITIOUS WILL SAY THAT BRAM STOKER'S IDEA OF A "HUMAN VAMPIRE" MAY BE CLOSER TO THE TRUTH THAN AT FIRST SUSPECTED. PERHAPS, THEY'LL TELL YOU, "DRACULA" WAS NEVER **REMOVED** FROM HIS GRAVE, BUT **ROSE UP** TO STALK THE LIVING, AS THE FIRST AND ONLY TRUE "VAMPIRE" -- THE "KING OF THE UNDEAD" HORROR FANS KNOW SO WELL!



SOME  
SLEEP WALKER, EH...  
INSOMNIACS?

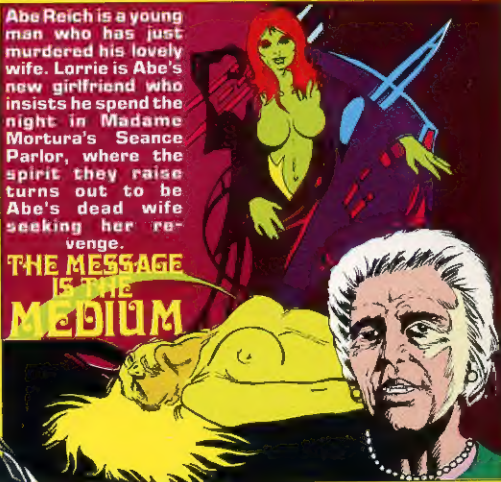


# EERIE PREVIEW NEXT ISSUE



Abe Reich is a young man who has just murdered his lovely wife. Lorrie is Abe's new girlfriend who insists he spend the night in Madame Mortura's Seance Parlor, where the spirit they raise turns out to be Abe's dead wife seeking her revenge.

**THE MESSAGE IS THE MEDIUM**



Six suspenseful terror tales written and illustrated by the most sought after talent in comics:

**ON SALE FEBRUARY 6**

## PREVIEW CREEPY NEXT ISSUE

**A MOST PRIVATE TERROR!**



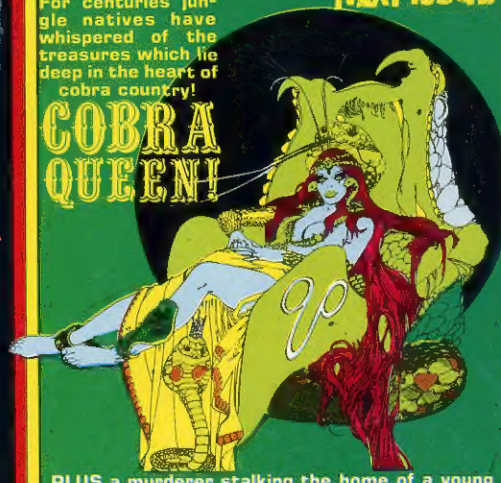
Ahead of Briley Culmein lay mile upon mile of desolate snow, loneliness and the unknown! Behind him lurked a bloodthirsting snow beast!

**ON SALE FEBRUARY 15**

## VAMPIRELLA PREVIEW NEXT ISSUE

For centuries jungle natives have whispered of the treasures which lie deep in the heart of cobra country!

**COBRA QUEEN!**



PLUS a murderer stalking the home of a young blind girl in "Won't Eddie Ever Learn," and VAMPIRELLA face to face with her equal, "The Blood Queen of Bayou Parish!"

**ON SALE FEBRUARY 1**